

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0096
(916) 319-2094
Fax: (916) 319-2162
Willie Guerrero
Chief Consultant
Patricia L. Hawkins
Committee Secretary

Assembly
California Legislature
Elections, Reapportionment and
Constitutional Amendments Committee
John Longville, Chair
Assemblymember, Sixty-Second District

Members:
Roy Ashburn, Vice Chair
Sam Aanestad
Bill Campbell
Tony Cardenas
Dennis Cardoza
Lynn Daucher
Marco A. Firebaugh
Jerome Horton
Christine Kehoe
Bill Leonard
George Nakano
Jenny Oropeza
Kevin Shelley
Juan Vargas

**TRANSCRIPT OF
PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING
INDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
JUNE 8, 2001**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
RONALD REAGAN STATE BUILDING
MAIN AUDITORIUM - 1st FLOOR
300 SOUTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90013**

PLEASE NOTE:

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The Committee invites individuals and organizations who made presentations at the hearing to advise it in writing if there are any errors in transcription that alter the substance of their testimony.

1 ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT AND
2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

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24 REPORTED BY: LESLIE A. MAC NEIL, RPR, CSR 7187
25 STEPHANIE L. ELLIS, RPR, CSR 10609

1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
2 FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2001; 11:17 A.M.

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4

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. Let
6 me officially convene this hearing of the Assembly
7 Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and
8 Constitutional Amendments.

9 I usually like to start the hearing out by
10 noting that the very name of our committee indicates the
11 depth and breadth of confusion and misinformation on the
12 subject of redistricting. The name of our committee is
13 wrong. We don't do reapportionment, we do
14 redistricting. Reapportionment is the process by which
15 congressional seats are allocated among the various
16 states based on populations, redistricting is the
17 process within the state, which we conduct. So the very
18 name of our committee indicates the depth of confusion
19 and misinformation. So if you have any misinformation,
20 don't worry about it; so do we.

21 Thank you for attending this hearing. The
22 assembly is committed to conducting a fair and open
23 redistricting process in which members of the public are
24 able to have both a voice and an effective role. This
25 is the fifth in a series of hearings that we are holding

1 in various locations throughout the state for the
2 purpose of gathering public input into the redistricting
3 process.

4 As you know, we are all counted by the Census
5 Bureau every 10 years. Redistricting is the process by
6 which the lines for assembly, senate, congressional and
7 board of equalization districts are changed every 10
8 years after the decennial census. The 2000 census
9 occurred in April of 2000 and we received the detailed
10 results of that census at the end of March of this
11 year. The census shows us both that California has
12 experienced an overall increase in population and that the
13 population has shifted.

14 The most basic principle that guides our
15 redistricting is the requirement of one person, one
16 vote. What this means is in order to ensure that each
17 individual's vote carries the same weight, all the
18 districts we draw must have the same population. After
19 the 2000 census, because of the increase in California's
20 population, the ideal population for an assembly or
21 senate district is 423,396 for the assembly and 846,791
22 for the senate seats.

23 To give you a sense of where the lines are
24 currently, as we undertake the process of redistricting,
25 we have on display, I believe, in the lobby, somewhere

1 out there, maps of the existing districts. As we do
2 that, there are certain requirements and guidelines from
3 the United States Constitution, the Federal Voting
4 Rights Act and the California Constitution, as well as
5 traditional redistricting principles that we pay
6 attention to.

7 One of the key factors is communities of
8 interest. The concept of communities of interest
9 embraces the many different kinds of ties that bind
10 communities together. Communities of interest can
11 include geographic ties, political entities and factors
12 such as socioeconomic status, the rural or urban
13 character of an area, transportation and media
14 infrastructures, community organizations and shared
15 histories. The list is quite extensive, and we look to
16 you to help us identify the relevant communities of
17 interest within this region.

18 Please know that we also have a web site that
19 contains information regarding redistricting and the
20 redistricting process. The web site an- -- address --
21 excuse me -- and information on how to offer comments,
22 receive notice of future hearings and submit
23 redistricting plans is available in the lobby.

24 As I mentioned, this is just one of a series of
25 redistricting hearings the Assembly Committee on

1 Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments
2 is holding around the state. Additionally, after
3 proposed plans have been submitted to the legislature,
4 we plan to hold two or more days of hearings in
5 Sacramento. These hearings will be linked by satellite
6 to locations around the state to allow interactive
7 hearings.

8 We thank you for your participation today and
9 hope you will continue to participate as the
10 redistricting process moves along.

11 Before we take testimony, I would like to
12 introduce you to our committee members and other members
13 of the legislature. And let me begin, I'll start all
14 the way down at the -- my far left, your far right, with
15 committee member, Assembly Member Jerome Horton.

16 Mr. Horton, if you wanted to share any remarks
17 as we begin, please feel free.

18 MR. HORTON: I just want to thank the Chair.
19 The Chair has been extremely diligent in its efforts to
20 make sure that we have community participation and
21 community involvement. I wanted to thank him for his
22 work throughout the state of California and to thank
23 each and every one of you for coming here today to
24 express your -- your input -- to provide your input and
25 your concerns, and to provide us with some direction in

1 regards to the redistricting process.

2 With that, we'll continue the process,
3 hopefully, and be able to get you in and out of here as
4 soon as possible.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

6 Next, Assembly Member Phil Wyman.

7 MR. WYMAN: Thank you, Mr. -- Mr. Chairman.

8 I'm glad to be here, glad to be able to speak by way of
9 testify on behalf of a region that I've had the honor to
10 serve, which is the High Desert. I think it is so
11 important that many, many stake holders, many, many
12 individuals and individuals representing groups are here
13 explaining to the legislature the facts of life, what is
14 important for communities to be represented, what is
15 important for regions to be represented.

16 I'm here, and the fact that I am testifying at
17 the Los Angeles hearing on reapportionment, it makes an
18 interesting statement about the point that I,
19 representing my region, am here to discuss. And that is
20 the High Desert. I represent a district, and have off
21 and on since 1978, representing one-fifth of the
22 geography of the state of California and yet having
23 approximately 1/80 of the population.

24 The High Desert, as a region, has often in
25 prior reapportionments, prior reapportionments, been cut

1 asunder and placed with urban centers, so that the rural
2 and the desert locations do not have a fair chance for
3 their public policy concerns to be met.

4 That general rule was overcome in the 1970
5 reapportionment, and locations within the High Desert
6 were consolidated. And during the 1970s new districts,
7 based upon the increase, the migration of aerospace
8 workers to the High Desert and our bases, when it's
9 Edwards, Naval Weapons Center, the United States
10 Training Center at Fort Irwin, those areas began to have
11 their own representatives.

12 Interestingly, when you're at a hearing in
13 San Bernardino, as will be occurring on the 6th of July,
14 or you're at a hearing here in Los Angeles, or in the
15 central valley, it misses the point that the High Desert
16 was there long before the county lines were
17 established. So the High Desert, as defined and as an
18 area with a common interest, is the portions of Kern
19 County that are in the desert, which includes Ridgecrest
20 and California City, Rosemond and those areas, those
21 portions of the north Los Angeles County that are in the
22 high desert, including Lancaster, and Palmdale, and
23 Little Rock, and Pearblossom, and then those portions of
24 the High Desert that are in San Bernardino County, the
25 High Desert portion, which include communities such as

1 Apple Valley, Hesperia, Victorville, Adelanto and
2 Barstow.

3 During the 1970 reapportionment those districts
4 found a common voice, both in the congressional district
5 lines and in the assembly and senate lines.
6 Unfortunately in the 1980, as the desert was concerned,
7 a gerrymander was concerned, we found that particularly
8 areas in the Antelope Valley and the Los Angeles County
9 portions particularly, were divided into four
10 congressional districts. There were representatives
11 from largely urban areas of Kern County that represented
12 portions of Palmdale and it wasn't a fit.

13 Not meaning to digress, but this is probably
14 the chance -- best chance for this area that I've
15 represented to make our case and to state it. As I say,
16 we could have done it in the Central Valley, which was
17 not in the desert, we could do it in San Bernardino
18 County and I know some representatives from Hesperia,
19 Apple Valley, Victorville, Barstow and Adelanto will do
20 that. But the point is, we need to be sensitive to the
21 region and to its economic needs.

22 I have to say something very positive about the
23 process that occurred in 1990 as it related to
24 reapportionment. That's the reapportionment under which
25 we are currently operating and that's the

1 reapportionment where the legislature came to a
2 loggerhead and basically the state supreme court was
3 required to draw the lines. Interestingly, the supreme
4 court chose the top Democrat consultant who had done the
5 1970 and '80 lines, to do that. So I think it was a
6 genuinely bipartisan effort to get lines that were
7 certainly sensitive to communities of interest and were
8 sensitive to the High Desert. And I keep wanting to
9 track back to that.

10 I was particularly honored, and I think all of
11 the representatives, some of whom have a packet of
12 letters, Mr. Chairman, that I will submit, this is a
13 partial packet from communities in the High Desert.
14 They were particularly pleased by the hearings that were
15 conducted by a young, black researcher from the Hoover
16 Institute by the name of Condoleeza Rice, now the
17 national security adviser for the United States. Condi
18 Rice chaired that commission.

19 And I think all of us can only recall fondly,
20 with our interests coming forward and her stern
21 cross-examination, wanting to know exactly what was the
22 High Desert, what did it reflect, which were the
23 communities and how ought it to be apportioned fairly
24 for the communities of interest to be met. She had some
25 tough questions. There were people of considerable

1 background and knowledge from local government, from the
2 political sphere, who did give that testimony.

3 And when the lines came down, instead of having
4 four members of congress in the Antelope Valley, there
5 was one. All of East Kern County, all of Inyo County,
6 all of Desert San Bernardino County were in one desert
7 district. And because the population had increased, we
8 now had a second desert district largely, which is
9 currently occupied by my colleague, Mr. Runner, which is
10 all of Lancaster and Palmdale, to Little Rock and
11 Pearblossom were tied into Santa Clarita.

12 So in a nutshell, that reapportionment process
13 gave us some outstanding opportunities for our region to
14 be represented. And no area is growing any faster in
15 North Los Angeles, nor is there aerospace and job
16 creation any more direct than that.

17 And when one gets into the area that
18 Mr. Longville and I represent, into San Bernardino
19 County, those are certainly critical portions of the
20 Inland Empire that have a special opportunity to help
21 grow California's future.

22 I've been asked to read a paragraph into the
23 record from the mayor of California City, that I think
24 expresses this kind of concern. He said:

25 "I, and I speak for the entire

1 City Council of California City, am
2 opposed to any break-up of the High
3 Desert, Antelope Valley or East Kern
4 region, for the sake of
5 reapportionment. We struggle up here
6 to keep continuity in our mutual
7 environment, air quality and
8 development goals. We share
9 geological and political similarities
10 and have many of the same problems.
11 The League of Cities has formed a
12 Desert/Mountain District in
13 recognition of those similarities, and
14 we have achieved a pattern of stable
15 and controlled growth because of it.
16 Please express in your strongest terms
17 possible our opposition to the
18 break-up of this district," and he
19 signed this -- "this region."
20 From the letter -- from the mayor of the City
21 of Ridgecrest:
22 "As the elected representative of
23 the people of Ridgecrest, we would
24 like to ask the committee to continue
25 the commitment embodied in the results

1 of the 1990 reapportionment process.
2 That of maintaining the geographical,
3 economic and societal common interests
4 of the High Desert in East Kern be
5 maintained. Again, Mr. Chair, thank
6 you for bringing" -- and this is a
7 letter directed to
8 Mr. Longville -- "to the people of
9 California and particularly those of
10 us in the East Kern High Desert, the
11 opportunity to share our concerns and
12 more importantly our beliefs that
13 preserving communities common
14 interests serve all Californians, as
15 you undertake this important process."
16 In a letter from the mayor of Palmdale:
17 "The City of Palmdale respectfully
18 requests that your committee honor
19 existing legislative district lines.
20 We believe it is important to preserve
21 the common interests and spheres of
22 influence presently enjoyed in our
23 High Desert communities."
24 And they're reflecting the view also, in the
25 letter from the mayor of Lancaster: "As mayor of

1 Lancaster" -- from -- from -- the prior letter was from
2 Mayor James C. Ledford, Jr. dated June 7, mayor of
3 Palmdale. In another letter to the Chair from Mayor
4 Frank C. Roberts of Lancaster:

5 "As mayor of the City of
6 Lancaster, I would like to personally
7 express my desire to see the assembly
8 district lines remain unchanged. I
9 strongly believe that we are
10 well-served by our current
11 legislatures. The Cities of Palmdale
12 and Lancaster" -- I think this is the
13 critical point -- "form a community of
14 interest and should stay together in a
15 Los Angeles County district. Any
16 changes in geographical redistricting
17 that revise this relationship would
18 not be of an advantage in our
19 representation."

20 And, finally, a letter from the Mojave Town
21 Council, which does -- reflects on congressional lines
22 and which it is stated:

23 "The community of Mojave asks that
24 in considering changes in
25 congressional and legislative district

1 lines particularly, that Southeast
2 Kern not be included in an Antelope
3 Valley/North L.A. district line."
4 So, again, it's a concern of keeping
5 communities of interest together.
6 And I would like to make one other suggestion
7 to the committee as we move forward and identify
8 communities of interest that want to be notified. I do
9 know that the reapportionment commission in 1990 was
10 very, very good and had a long, long list of communities
11 of interest that have not crumbled, have not
12 disappeared, that have the same stake holders.
13 A lot of these people didn't know about this
14 hearing, a lot of the folks in the San Bernardino County
15 who will be submitting written testimony were not aware
16 of it, and because they are part of a community of
17 interest that's geographically based, I would encourage
18 our committee, and I speak as a member of the
19 legislature as a whole who is visiting the committee
20 today, that those of us who can identify some of those
21 contact points, that we put those in a database and that
22 those folks get the notice directly. I cannot be a
23 perfect disseminator of information about these
24 hearings, but I think that those communities to the
25 extent that they existed before and have important views

1 today, need to know about what's happening and about
2 future hearings, which are still before them. So they
3 still have those opportunities.

4 Mr. Chairman, thank you for letting me extend
5 my remarks.

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: That's quite all right,
7 Mr. Wyman. We -- if we could just get you out of your
8 shell and get you to talk we'd be, you know ...

9 MR. WYMAN: One of those days.

10 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: That's quite all right.
11 Mr. -- it's a pleasure to have you with us.

12 Mr. Bill Leonard, who is a member of the
13 committee and whose district adjoins. My good friend,
14 Mr. Leonard.

15 MR. LEONARD: Thank you, Chairman Longville. I
16 really appreciate the opportunity for our hearing to be
17 in Los Angeles today, and I'm here to listen.

18 We can determine, for the criteria of
19 redistricting, a number of the factors from data
20 available to us; one person, one vote. We can determine
21 geographic boundaries, mountain ranges and oceans. What
22 we cannot determine without your input are communities
23 of interest, and Assembly Member Wyman was speaking to
24 that just now.

25 So I'm going to listen particularly to

1 individuals and groups that can help us define and
2 identify and show us how to produce in map form, in
3 drawing districts, communities of interest that should
4 not be divided or communities that might be close to
5 each other which really have different interests and
6 could well be separated one another. I'm here to
7 listen.

8 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
10 Mr. Leonard.

11 And I don't know if I mentioned at the
12 beginning, my name is John Longville. I chair the
13 committee. Immediately next to me on my other side is
14 the chief consultant for the committee, Mr. Willie
15 Guerrero, and immediately to his right is Assembly
16 Member George Nakano.

17 Mr. Nakano, would you

18 MR. NAKANO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a
19 pleasure to be here this morning. It's good to be back
20 in Southern California after a long, arduous week in
21 Sacramento trying to pass all these bills on the
22 assembly side.

23 As some of you may know, 10 years ago I was a
24 city council member and I was on the other side,
25 testifying. So I certainly look forward to hearing your

1 comments and your suggestion here today.

2 And I remember 10 years ago when I was
3 testifying, there was not a single Asian in the state
4 legislature. And I think there had not been one for
5 like 10 years at that time.

6 Today's agenda is very full. And so on behalf
7 of the committee, I will close by thanking all of you
8 for coming here today to participate in this important
9 process.

10 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
11 Mr. Nakano.

12 And Mr. Nakano also is a member of the
13 committee.

14 And immediately next to him is another member
15 of the committee, Assembly Member Marco Firebaugh.

16 Mr. Firebaugh?

17 Okay. Let me note that during the
18 presentations today we will by and large not be reacting
19 to things you're saying, we're simply trying to get
20 information. So we're not going to be having any
21 extensive feedback.

22 I would encourage all witnesses to note that we
23 have court reporters, who are taking down all the
24 testimony. So if you talk real fast, like this, they
25 have a little difficulty keeping up. And if -- as

1 you're testifying, if you see me go like this, I'll be
2 trying to tell you that's a signal stretch -- you know,
3 don't go so fast, stretch out your words a little. And
4 I will do that if I notice anybody's fingers catching
5 fire down there as they're trying to keep up on the
6 keyboard.

7 With that, our first -- at each hearing we ask
8 do we have any other state or federal officials who have
9 come to the hearing, that we're unaware of, either state
10 or federal officials, any members of congress, any other
11 legislatures?

12 All right. We have several groups that have
13 been scheduled ahead of time that will start off our
14 program, and then we'll go into the people who have
15 submitted sheets of paper saying they want to -- they
16 want to testify.

17 I mention this because if there's anyone who
18 wishes to take a break, if you need -- depending on what
19 your schedule is, if you didn't have a chance to grab a
20 bite, I know there's probably a cafeteria in this
21 building, or I assume there is, that it will be a little
22 bit yet before we get into the ones that were submitted
23 just today. So I just want to give you a little
24 warning.

25 The first group, we have four individuals who

1 are testifying on behalf of the NAACP African American
2 Community Advisory Committee on Redistricting.

3 Excuse me.

4 MR. HORTON: Mr. Chair, there -- I appreciate
5 allowing the federal and state elected officials. There
6 are some local elected officials that are also present.
7 Might I ask if there's time to allow them to provide
8 testimony if that be their desire.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: We certainly -- well, I
10 don't have the -- do we have the names of the ...

11 Okay. We'll have someone bring up the names to
12 me here. Just a moment.

13 We have -- we have, Mr. Horton, some people who
14 had -- who had arranged ahead of time to speak, and we
15 kind of want to be careful we don't hold up the schedule
16 too much. But I believe I have -- if I'm look at it
17 correctly, I believe I have three individuals who are
18 identified as being elected officials on here. I think
19 probably if they're -- I can take those three without, I
20 think, slowing us down too much. Let me real quick --
21 and they were the first three who had signed in. So let
22 me just take those three first.

23 Mayor Daryl Sweeney, from the City of Carson.
24 And just so the others can be ready -- excuse me. I
25 only have two, because I have two sheets for

1 Mr. Sweeney. Next, Mr. -- Council Member Steve
2 Bradford, from the City of Gardena.

3 And were there any other local electeds that
4 had filled out, that I -- filled out these forms, that
5 I didn't catch?

6 Okay. We'll have those two, and then we'll go
7 into the NAACP panel.

8 MR. SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank
9 your Assemblyman Horton for suggesting that we be
10 allowed to speak first.

11 First of all, I understand there's something in
12 place to split the City of Carson in half. And I would
13 just start off by saying that I am opposed to that, if
14 that is --

15 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Okay. If I can ask, to
16 begin your remarks, if you can go ahead and just give
17 your name for the record and spell it, so that the court
18 reporter can get it?

19 And although -- although I will be mentioning
20 this later, I should have mentioned it earlier. There
21 is currently -- just so everyone's aware, there is
22 currently no proposal before us as to how lines should
23 be drawn. The purpose of these hearings is to get
24 information, based upon which we will begin drawing
25 lines after the public input has been gathered. But

1 anything that you may have heard about proposals, they
2 are not coming out of the committee. There may be some
3 individuals out there who have proposed plans, but we
4 have no proposals before us as of yet that we have drawn
5 ourselves. There are other proposals other people may
6 submit.

7 And with that, please go ahead, Mayor.

8 MR. SWEENEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is
9 Daryl Sweeney, D-a-r-y-l S-w-e-e-n-e-y, and I'm the
10 mayor of Carson, California.

11 And one of the assembly members mentioned
12 earlier regarding sending out notification, and I just
13 found out about this yesterday about 4:00. So it would
14 be good if we can have some advance notice of these
15 kinds of meetings, because I had a to cancel a business
16 appointment to try to rush over here. And that's why
17 I'm glad the assembly member suggested that we be
18 allowed to go a little earlier.

19 The City of Carson is a community of interest
20 with its own defined boundaries. It is a multi-cultural
21 community. It has its own viable economic base and its
22 own university. The coming ballot proposition -- it has
23 a coming ballot proposition, in fact, for its own school
24 district, which demonstrates that it is a distinct
25 community. It has its own shopping center and it has

1 its own entertainment areas.

2 While there are differences in income, most of
3 the people in Carson share the same socioeconomic
4 status. There are pockets of wealth and pockets of
5 poverty, but there's not the extreme one that you would
6 find in other areas.

7 I would hope and suggest that the city be kept
8 intact and would remain as part of the 55th assembly
9 district.

10 And I'm sure any suggestion -- any suggestion
11 to split the city would probably have it split
12 north/south, with Del Amo being the dividing line. And
13 if you do that, on the north it's primarily the African
14 American community and on the south its Filipino mixed
15 with Latino and everything else. If the City of Carson
16 is spit, I am pretty sure that you will be sort of
17 splitting it along racial lines, which would not be a
18 good thing. So I would suggest that the city be kept
19 intact.

20 And that would be my comments. Thank you for
21 allowing me to go early.

22 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
23 Mr. Mayor. Please give my regards to former mayor Gil
24 Smith next time you see him.

25 MR. SWEENEY: I will.

1 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.
2 Next I have Council Member Steve Bradford.
3 MR. SWEENEY: Not here.
4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Excuse me. All right.
5 Then we will go into our panel. Thank you very much.
6 And the panel consists of, if they can come up to the
7 table here, Dr. Geraldine Washington, the Rev. William
8 Campbell, Adrian Dove and Larry Aubry, I believe.
9 Go ahead and proceed, sir.
10 REV. CAMPBELL: Honorable Chairperson, members
11 of the committee, ladies and gentlemen, I am the
12 Rev. William Monroe Campbell. Let me indicate that I
13 just received a message from Dr. Washington, and she
14 regrettably will not be able to be with us this
15 morning. And I yet anticipate the other members of our
16 panel. I trust they arrive while I'm yet speaking.
17 Nevertheless, I am coordinator of the African
18 American Community Advisory Committee on Redistricting
19 and I come before you to share our community's vital
20 interests in the redistricting process and to make known
21 to you our clear concern that there not be a reduction
22 in the number of congressional, state senate or state
23 assembly districts with which we have had a particular
24 sense of identification.
25 Nearly a century ago, in 1903 to be exact,

1 Dr. W.E.B. DuBois introduced his powerful and now
2 classic work, "The Souls of Black Folk" with the
3 prescient declaration:

4 "Herein lie buried many things
5 which if read with patience may show
6 the strange meaning of being black
7 here in the dawning of the Twentieth
8 Century. This meaning is not without
9 interest to you, Gentle Reader; for
10 the problem of the Twentieth Century
11 is the problem of the color-line."

12 There are two elements within the declaration
13 that I believe it is important for us to note at this
14 time and in the context of the work that you as a
15 committee are undertaking. His reference to "the
16 strange meaning of being black" acknowledges that there
17 is more to the African American experience than simply
18 genetics and biology. In fact, the African American
19 community is a community of cohorts who share in a
20 historic, constitutional identification. And there are
21 issues that confront this nation that are derivative of
22 that reality which he incorporates in his expression,
23 "the color-line."

24 Please allow me further to note that this book
25 and profound declaration came forth on the heels of the

1 Reconstruction and what the same author, Dr. DuBois,
2 would write of as "Black Reconstruction." Those who are
3 students of United States history are aware that the
4 period so labeled referenced both the actions of this
5 nation to make adjustments following the civil war and
6 appropriating to those who shared in the African
7 American experience the rights, privileges and
8 responsibilities of citizenship. That period ended with
9 the compromise of 1876 that resulted in the election of
10 Rutherford B. Hayes as the president of the United
11 States at the expense of the rights of African
12 Americans.

13 We've made significance advances in recovering
14 from that debacle, reflected in expanded involvement of
15 persons of African American ancestry in many facets of
16 this nation. Example is the presence of the honorable
17 Mr. Horton, as a member of your committee and of your
18 legislative body, or the speaker before me, as mayor of
19 one of our emerging cities.

20 As you engage in the redistricting process,
21 where will you fit in this historic picture? Will you
22 share in affirming growth and opportunity or will you
23 use a pencil of diminishment by collapsing districts
24 that have produced elected representation respective of
25 the community of interest that shares in this profound

1 historical, social and cultural experience.
2 We are here to offer to you and will be also
3 subsequently submitting to you information that will
4 help you to understand the elements that define our
5 community of interest and its geographical
6 implications. For example, our churches are more than
7 places of worship; they are social, cultural and
8 institutional centers. In fact, the church within the
9 African American experience have a distinctive status,
10 recognized by ecclesiologists as being broader than that
11 of others in its religious connection because of this
12 comprehensive character.

13 An examination of the preponderant length of
14 residency in areas reflects a dimension of stakeholder
15 presence in many areas that may be otherwise veiled by
16 the number of residents in the area. There are other
17 indicators that are also informative, such as business
18 districts serviced by historic institutions, such as the
19 Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company. There are
20 school associations that have lingered through the
21 years, such as the historic Southern League of the
22 Los Angeles Unified School District.

23 There are also communities that have
24 distinction, such as Watts. Prior to 1965, Watts was
25 noted as an area south of the Firestone and east of Main

1 Street to the City of Los Angeles borders. The media,
2 being uninformed, presumed that all of the area affected
3 by the events of August 1965, generally used the rubric
4 "Watts Riot," and so disregarded the community
5 distinction.

6 It is in that vein that we would have you
7 recognize the character of such historic districts and
8 communities, and we look forward to submitting to you
9 more detailed information that we believe will help you
10 to understand the cohort of the African American
11 experience and help to guide you as you make the
12 decisions that you must make in terms of determining the
13 redistricting process and the future of the viability of
14 our community.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
17 Reverend. We appreciate your taking the time to be
18 here.

19 Let me just real quickly check if either Adrian
20 Dove or Larry Aubry are here yet? Adrian Dove or Larry
21 Aubry? Mr. Aubry?

22 REV. CAMPBELL: We will seek to have the
23 information they would have presented, submitted to you
24 in writing, as well as I've alluded to supplemental
25 data.

1 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Okay. And excuse my
2 ignorance. Adrian Dove, is that Mr. or Ms.?
3 REV. CAMPBELL: Mr.
4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Mr. Adrian Dove. Okay.
5 We will take that later, then. Thank you very much. We
6 appreciate it, Rev. Campbell.
7 And we will now go to the William C. Velasquez
8 Institute/Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational
9 Fund. And we have -- representing them, we have
10 collection -- let's see. Amadis Velez, Zachary
11 Gonzalez, Alcides Rodriguez and Dick Hidalgo and
12 Felipe Agredano-Lozano.
13 Is that correct?
14 MR. VELEZ: Correct. We have other members,
15 also --
16 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Oh, all right. Well, you
17 can -- why don't you just take the MC duties here for
18 the panel.
19 MR. VELEZ: Okay.
20 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you.
21 And please make sure each person begins with
22 their name and the spelling, for our court reporters.
23 Thank you.
24 MR. VELEZ: Thank you, Chairman Longville, and
25 members of the committee for the opportunity to present

1 MALDEF's perspective on the state's redistricting
2 legislative process. My name is Amadis Velez,
3 A-m-a-d-i-s V-e-l-e-z, and I am the western regional
4 redistricting coordinator for MALDEF, the Mexican
5 American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. MALDEF has
6 advocated on behalf of Latino Californians in the
7 redistricting process since 1980, in other parts of the
8 country since the 1960s.

9 I would like to start by saying that equal and
10 fair representation are among the core values for which
11 all people in our democracy strive. As such, MALDEF's
12 primary goal in redistricting is to ensure that Latinos
13 are provided with fair opportunities to elect the
14 candidates of our choice.

15 In submitting a redistricting plan with its
16 principal partnership organization, the William C.
17 Velasquez Institute, we will accomplish this by
18 presenting a fair picture of electoral districts that
19 comply with the Voting Rights Act, incorporate
20 traditional redistricting principals, and respect the
21 boundaries of communities of interest, including those
22 communities of interest identified by and important to
23 the Latino population in California.

24 We welcome the opportunity to assist you in
25 your redistricting efforts, and commend you on enabling

1 California residents to participate in the process. As
2 you know, such input strengthens our democracy.
3 Accordingly, to provide for greater public participation
4 during the redistricting, we again must insist that
5 interested parties be provided with as much advanced
6 warning as possible on any legislatively proposed
7 redistricting bills or amendments to help ensure an open
8 and fair redistricting process.

9 In the year 2000 Latinos in California
10 comprised 32.4 percent of the total state population.
11 That's 11 million people. Although significant strides
12 have been made during the past decade, our political
13 representation continues to lack far behind our voting
14 strength.

15 Where polarization exists, as it does in
16 California, creation of Latino-majority districts is
17 necessary to achieve compliance with the Voting Rights
18 Act. The fact that there are any Latino-majority
19 districts in the state of California has only come about
20 because organizations such as MALDEF and the hard work
21 of many others, many of whom are in the room with us
22 today, who have advocated and litigated for the
23 necessity for these districts under the federal Voting
24 Rights Act.

25 The redistricting proposals submitted by MALDEF

1 and the William C. Velasquez Institute will comply with
2 the Voting Rights Act to prevent the dilution of Latino
3 voting strength and to ensure that Latinos are provided
4 with the fair opportunity to elect the candidates of our
5 choice.

6 Today I would like to briefly describe the
7 elements of public participation that are of immediate
8 concern to us, and to state the current voting right law
9 in the context of developments -- recent developments.
10 Zachary Gonzalez, from the William C. Velasquez
11 Institute, will address the outreach work that we have
12 been performing.

13 MALDEF and the W.C. Velasquez Institute
14 together have been -- well, I'll let Zach speak about
15 that section.

16 Based on comments made by the committee on
17 May 4, public hearings in San Diego, it is our
18 understanding that this committee will accept public
19 testimony not only as it relates to the assembly and to
20 its lines and issues, but also as it relates to the
21 state senate and congressional lines and other related
22 issues. On that note, with this in mind, I raise to
23 which the following important issues:

24 As of today, the Senate Elections and
25 Reapportionment Committee has made absolutely no

1 provision for public comment on proposed redistricting
2 plans, or redistricting bills and comments. This is
3 clearly unacceptable. Immediate remedies to this
4 oversight must be implemented to ensure that the people
5 of the state of California have a full and fair
6 opportunity to provide the state election committee with
7 valuable community input and to ensure that their voice
8 is heard.

9 The assembly Committee on Elections and
10 Reapportionment, by contrast, has billed this public
11 comment period into its schedule and the senate
12 committee must follow its example.

13 The August 1 deadline for public submission of
14 senate and congressional redistricting plans, a deadline
15 established by the Senate Elections Committee, marks an
16 important turning point in the legislative redistricting
17 process. It is at this point that the public is
18 provided with a valuable opportunity to analyze,
19 critique and advocate for or against particular plans or
20 bills.

21 The public comment period occurs -- occurring
22 after the public has had an opportunity to provide
23 redistricting committees with suggestions,
24 recommendations and plans, as well as those occurring
25 after redistricting committees have submitted

1 redistricting bills or amendments, are an essential part
2 of any open, fair redistricting process. It provides
3 redistricting committees with community perspective on
4 proposals that are simply unavailable elsewhere. They
5 provide a human dimension to and animate the demographic
6 and political data that is used to redistrict.

7 Because this is such an important element of
8 the public participation process, MALDEF intends to
9 provide legal analysis of redistricting plans or bills
10 before the Senate Elections Committee. As such, the
11 failure of the committee to provide the public with such
12 a comment period deprives Californians of an important
13 opportunity to participate in one of the most important
14 parts of our political and electoral process.

15 MALDEF would be happy to assist the Senate
16 Elections Committee in developing a hearing schedule,
17 one focused on providing comment plans, bills or
18 amendments before the committee. The Senate Elections
19 Committee must provide no less than three days of
20 hearings with one-week notice. Ideally, these meetings
21 should occur in Northern California, Southern California
22 and Central Valley to facilitate public participation
23 during this process. We understand that the legislative
24 summer recess is from July 20 to August 20. This should
25 provide the Senate Elections Committee with more time to

1 implement a fair schedule.

2 Returning specifically to the Assembly

3 Committee on Elections. We urge the committee to

4 expedite the release of transcripts from previous

5 hearings. Timely access to the public record

6 facilitates consideration of community interest

7 information provided to the committee by the public.

8 With the August 15 suggested time line for the

9 submission of assembly proposals looming just around the

10 corner, time is of the essence. Transcripts must be

11 made available immediately and the entire process must

12 be expedited. We are aware that some transcripts have

13 been released, but we would appreciate it if they could

14 be released in a little more expedited manner.

15 Just as urban legends have a seemingly

16 unfettered propensity to develop a life of their own, it

17 is unfortunate that the myth that the Voting Rights Act

18 is no longer viable -- is no longer a viable force in

19 redistricting still exists. Quite the contrary. The

20 Voting Rights Act is alive, well and kicking and rumors

21 of its death have, to borrow from Mark Twain, been

22 greatly exaggerated. Over the past decade, more

23 majority-minority districts have been upheld than have

24 been overturned. Numerous supreme court and lower court

25 post-Shaw decisions continue to reaffirm the main

1 corollaries of the Voting Rights Act: One, drawing
2 majority-minority districts is still illegal and, two,
3 adopting redistricting plans that deny minority voters
4 the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice is
5 not.

6 To those who would perpetuate the myth that the
7 Voting Rights Act demise will -- the myth of the Voting
8 Rights Act's demise while redistricting, I offer the
9 following: If you ignore the Voting Rights Act and
10 relegate its role to that of a minor nuisance, easily
11 disregarded, it is an invitation to protracted and
12 costly litigation.

13 The Voting Rights Act continues to provide a
14 valuable tool for minority communities disenfranchised
15 by the electoral system that contains or perpetuates
16 systematic barriers to equitable participation and fair
17 representation. MALDEF is committed to ensuring that
18 Latinos are provided with every opportunity to
19 participate as equal partners in our democracy. The
20 Voting Rights Act of 1965 protects racial and ethnic
21 minorities, including Latinos, not just against the
22 outright denial of the right to vote but against
23 mechanisms that have effective -- has the effect of
24 denying or diluting minority voting strength.

25 Unfortunately, vote dilution still occurs

1 against Latinos. Therefore, creating a redistricting
2 plan that fractures Latinos across districts or packs
3 Latinos into a few districts can violate the Voting
4 Rights Act. As a result, we strongly advise that a
5 failure to create additional Latino-majority districts,
6 in light of the tremendous increase in the Latino
7 population, could very well violate federal law.

8 I'd like to make a few final remarks, quick
9 points as I close. As you know, MALDEF will soon be
10 submitting a redistricting plan for the committee's
11 consideration. We reemphasize again, in the spirit of
12 openness and fairness, we believe it is extremely
13 important for the public to have access to any data
14 sources, specifically any community of interest type
15 databases that the legislature uses or has available to
16 it in drafting its plan.

17 Furthermore, for the committee's guidelines for
18 public submission of plans, the last criterion stating
19 "avoiding unnecessary vote deferral" should be removed,
20 as it is unnecessary and should not be accorded the
21 status of traditional redistricting criteria. There is
22 minimal legal support for inclusion of this criterion in
23 the assembly's list of traditional redistricting
24 criteria.

25 I leave the committee members with copies of

1 the testimony presented today, as well as copies of our
2 redistricting manual developed together with the Asian
3 Pacific American Legal Center and the NAACP Legal
4 Defense Fund. Denise Hulett, MALDEF's national
5 redistricting coordinator, Steve Reyes, our voting
6 rights attorney in the MALDEF Los Angeles regional
7 office and I welcome the opportunity to answer any
8 questions you may have and provide assistance to you as
9 this process progresses.

10 I now pass the mike to Zachary Gonzalez from
11 the William C. Velasquez Institute.

12 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And before Mr. Velasquez
13 begins, let me just thank you for providing a written
14 copy of your testimony as well, and mention: Anyone who
15 does have their remarks in writing, if you have the
16 ability to provide us a copy of it, it will be very
17 helpful. And we have several staff people seated right
18 over here, next to the court reporters. And if you just
19 give it to one of them, they'll make sure that we have
20 that in the record.

21 And thank you very much.

22 MR. VELEZ: Thank you.

23 MR. GONZALEZ: My name is Zachary Gonzalez.
24 That's Z-a-c-h-a-r-y G-o-n-z-a-l-e-z. Today I'd like to
25 testify about MALDEF AND WCVI's redistricting outreach

1 program.

2 MALDEF and WCVI, together, have held

3 redistricting workshops in over 30 communities

4 throughout the state of California. At these workshops,

5 we encourage participants to organize into local

6 redistricting coalitions so that they can effectively

7 participate in redistricting at both statewide levels

8 and at, also, local city council and supervisorial

9 levels; and many have done just that. Our workshops

10 include both the legislative -- a legal overview on the

11 state of redistricting law, and also an interactive

12 component whereby community members use real maps, real

13 data and real software to develop the district lines

14 that they think best represent their interests in their

15 communities.

16 Based on our work with community members at

17 these workshops, MALDEF and the William C. Velasquez

18 Institute have documented the concerns of the Latino

19 community. They have told us, with marker in hand,

20 where their communities are, and, more importantly, what

21 defines them as a community.

22 Some definitions are universal, such as issues

23 pertaining to access, to health care, adequate

24 educational facilities and opportunities, the

25 availability of affordable housing and equal access to

1 government services. Together we have gathered this
2 data and mapped it based on the socioeconomic criteria.

3 However, there are also histories and
4 experiences that are unique to each community that we
5 visit. And these have also become part of our
6 redistricting efforts. These include specific local
7 concerns having to do with agriculture, water, energy,
8 transportation, migration, business and other issues
9 that serve to define a community.

10 People tell us how the Latino community has
11 been denied representation in many cities and counties.
12 They tell us how a variety of voting systems and
13 electoral requirements, including the shape of
14 districts, has prevented them from being able to elect
15 the person who will best fight for their community.

16 As we organize communities throughout the
17 state, MALDEF and the William C. Velasquez Institute
18 encourage participants to voice their concerns by
19 testifying at both assembly and senate hearings. Some
20 are present today and you will hear from them shortly.
21 To further support the testimony of our community,
22 MALDEF and the William C. Velasquez Institute also
23 intend to submit a redistricting plan to both assembly
24 and senate that reflect the needs and concerns of our
25 communities that we have visited throughout the state.

1 We are pleased that the assembly and senate are
2 holding public hearings to allow people to testify on
3 how lines should be drawn in their communities. We hope
4 that the dates and locations of future hearings remain
5 unchanged, so that the community has sufficient notice
6 to participate.

7 We also hope that the California public is
8 given sufficient time to comment on any assembly and
9 senate proposals. I would remind you today that the
10 committee -- if it takes several months to put together
11 a plan, it will take longer than a day or two for the
12 general public to submit informed comment on proposed
13 districts.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir.

16 And before we move to the next person, I should
17 have noted for the benefit of the audience, on the web
18 site, which you may recall in my introductory remarks,
19 that part that I read, that -- I mentioned we have a web
20 site. The location of the web site is on material
21 available in the lobby. On that web site there is a
22 wealth of information available, we're trying to put
23 anything out there we think people might find useful,
24 and included will be the transcripts of all these
25 hearings. So, for example, right now we have the first

1 two hearings up on it. And as the remaining ones are
2 transcribed, we will put them on the web site as well.
3 So all of your testimony offered today will end up on
4 the web site. It takes a couple of weeks or so at least
5 to get that up, probably a little longer, and we will be
6 doing that.

7 I will also note, by the way, we will be doing
8 the redistricting itself, essentially ourselves, in a
9 period of about a month. Because we have set August 15
10 as our cutoff for taking testimony; we have to be
11 finished by September 15. So it's going to be real
12 compressed.

13 With that, sir, please -- you have the
14 microphone.

15 MR. VELEZ: I'd like to bring up Margo
16 Morales.

17 MS. MORALES-FULLER: Hi. My name is Margo
18 Morales-Fuller. That's M-a-r-g-o M-o-r-a-l-e-s hyphen
19 F-u-l-l-e-r. I'm a resident of the City of Pasadena and
20 I'm here to urge you to keep in mind that Pasadena is a
21 city that's very organized. And I hope that -- that you
22 take that into consideration when you redraw your
23 lines. We like being under one elected leader there,
24 and we don't want to have to vote for two different
25 assembly seats.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. AGRELANO-LOZANO: My name is Filipe
3 Agredano-Lozano, and that's F-e-l-i-p-e A-g-r-e-d-a-n-o
4 hyphen L-o-z-a-n-o, and I'm field representative for
5 Council Member Victor Gordo. And Council Member Victor
6 Gordo sponsored one of these redistricting forums in the
7 San Gabriel Valley, City of Pasadena, and with the help
8 of MALDEF and the William C. Velasquez Institute. We
9 want to thank them very much for that, and that we also
10 want to urge you to consider Pasadena and East Pasadena,
11 which are currently in two congressional districts.
12 Pasadenians prefer to be -- both East Pasadena and
13 Pasadena prefer to be in one district, whether it be
14 assembly, senate or congressional.

15 And as a resident of the San Gabriel Valley, I
16 also want to urge consideration of the region as a
17 whole; consider its economic, its housing, its
18 educational needs. The region thinks of itself as a
19 region very strong, and also organized and present, and
20 I just want to make sure that that is also considered
21 for the record.

22 And I should also mention, although there is
23 someone here representing Eagle Rock Chamber of
24 Commerce, Kaye Beckham, as a former field representative
25 for Senator Jack Scott and field deputy or

1 representative to Eagle Rock, I'm aware that Eagle Rock
2 is currently in three assembly seats and two senate --
3 two senate districts. And I know very well that the
4 community of Eagle Rock is very interested in being one
5 assembly and one senate district.

6 That's it for my comments.

7 MR. REYES: Good afternoon, Chairman Longville
8 and members of the committee. My name is Louis R.
9 Reyes, L-o-u-i-s R-e-y-e-s, and I'm a resident of the
10 City of Whittier. I have lived in the city with my
11 family for 11 years and I'm self-employed, working a
12 family business, which is located in unincorporated West
13 Whittier. In addition, I have been a full-time student
14 for the last four years; two which has been at the Rio
15 Hondo Community College, located in North Whittier.

16 While studying at Rio Hondo College I had the
17 privilege of serving as associate student body president
18 and a student trustee of the district. Unfortunately,
19 we're -- several of our community members are here.

20 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Stretch out. Slower. I
21 see sparks down there.

22 MR. REYES: Several of our community members
23 are here to testify that our communities are split up,
24 not only at a state and federal level but also at a
25 county level, with different representatives.

1 I am here before you as a concerned citizen and
2 representative of the Whittier Latino Coalition, a
3 community-based organization that advocates greater
4 Latino participation in civic affairs of our community.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Even a touch slower would
6 not hurt.

7 MR. REYES: Okay. Our coalition is made up of
8 a wide range of community residents in the greater
9 Whittier area, which holds membership in a variety of
10 other community-based organizations.

11 I am here to ask the committee not to -- to
12 take in my testimony not to divide our community in
13 different legislative districts. The greater Whittier
14 area, which encompasses the 90601 area code to the
15 90606 -- I mean zip codes -- is a community of interest
16 in the opinion of our coalition, which represents
17 individuals from different socioeconomic, education, age
18 and ethnic groups. What bounds us -- bonds us as a
19 community, in my personal opinion, is three-fold.

20 First, our community shares many services that
21 the city and county provides the residents. From parks
22 to community centers, our residents use these services
23 throughout the area. For example, the City of Whittier
24 has an annual summer in the concert park series.
25 Community residents from all over the area attend these

1 concerts, and it's just one of many examples that our
2 whole area shares common interests.

3 Second, our youth attend the same high school
4 districts and community college. The Whittier Union
5 High School District, which serves the area, has five
6 high schools. Many of the students go and grow up and
7 attend these schools and know each other, they compete
8 in athletics, they participate in extracurricular
9 activities and grow up staying in the area. This is a
10 common bond between -- between our communities.

11 Finally, I believe our communities share the
12 strong sense of community pride and concern for the
13 environment and preservation of our resources. From the
14 Whittier Narrows to the north of us, redeveloping our
15 brown fields to the south of our area, which includes
16 Santa Fe Springs, the Pio Pico restoration, which is in
17 the west part of our city, and the Whittier Hills
18 preservation, bordering the entire north of the area.
19 Whittier area residents believe that these are important
20 aspects of our community, and we work hard as a
21 community for these common interests.

22 Members of the committee, these are just a
23 sample of the reasons why the greater Whittier area is a
24 community of interest and should not be split. I ask
25 you to respect our community of interests, enforce the

1 Voting Rights Act. Please do not split our communities
2 when you redraw the redistricting line.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

5 Next?

6 MS. SULLIVAN: My name is Nancy Wilcox
7 Sullivan. Do you have the spelling? N-a-n-c-y
8 W-i-l-c-o-x Sullivan, S-u-l-l-i-v-a-n.

9 I've lived in the unincorporated area of
10 Whittier for 33 years, where I raised my children,
11 mostly as a single parent, so of course I've been active
12 in my community that many years. And I have the same
13 concerns about cleaning up our area.

14 All our kids have grown up together, played
15 sports together, go to the same movies, go to the same
16 schools, do everything together. They all know each
17 other. South Whittier is just as concerned about the
18 Whittier hills as North Whittier is, because we're
19 affected environmentally by everything that happens in
20 any part of Whittier.

21 I just hope and pray that we will not spit up
22 our Whittier area in any way. It is very confusing to
23 have all these different divisions. One park will have
24 an activity that's totally different from another. Our
25 supervisors -- we have two; one park has one supervisor,

1 one has another. We have so many splits in our city
2 that we don't need. And that is my one hope, that
3 Whittier never gets divided.

4 Because our -- now that I'm a full-time --
5 retired, but full- -- permanent now, full-time volunteer
6 for my community, I get to hear from them all,
7 especially the moms, the parents, and the kids
8 themselves about what they want in Whittier. And the
9 thing they want the most is not to be divided in any
10 way.

11 I thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

13 And before we move to our next witness, I'd
14 make two notes. One is just to remind folks that we do
15 draw the lines for the house of representatives, the
16 senate, the California State Senate, California State
17 Assembly and the state board of equalization. The state
18 senate also develops plans for all four of those things
19 and then, eventually, we will work out differences
20 between whatever we adopt. The lines for the board of
21 supervisors and other local districts will be drawn by
22 those districts.

23 And, also, let me note that after we finish
24 this panel I'm going to insert two individuals. I
25 believe Council Member Steve Bradford, maybe Mayor

1 Pro Tem Bradford, from Gardena has arrived. And then
2 Basil Kimbrew, from the Compton School Board. So please
3 go ahead with the remaining members of our panel, then
4 we'll squeeze those two in before the next panel.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. LEMOS: My name is Liza, L-i-z-a Lemos
7 L-e-m-o-s. I grew up in the City of Pico Rivera and now
8 I live right next door in Whittier. I live in the
9 dividing line of two districts, even though I live in
10 the central part of the city.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Miss, could you move the
12 microphone closer to your mouth, there? Yeah, we're --
13 people are having difficulty hearing you.

14 MS. LEMOS: I'm a member of the Whittier Latino
15 Coalition, which seeks to involve our membership in
16 civic and social events and activities in the city.

17 Our community shares many sources. We attend
18 concerts in the park, practice at the "Y", meetings at
19 the community center, we take our kids to baseball games
20 at Lucky Ranch, go to a lot of soccer games. We support
21 our local businesses in the area. We are a community of
22 interests. We live in the same city but are both are
23 diluted by splitting our community with different --
24 into different districts.

25 As a concerned citizen and parent, I'm here to

1 ask that our community is not divided into different
2 districts.

3 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

4 Any more from the panel?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon, member
6 committee. My name is Alcides Rodriguez, A-l-c-i-d-e-s
7 Rodriguez, R-o-d-r-i-g-u-e-z. I represent San Pedro and
8 Wilmington. And the most part of the San Pedro and
9 Wilmington keeping the same -- more similarities than
10 differences. We keeping the same problem, we keeping
11 the same kind of school. We have the same -- almost the
12 same kind of job. The most activities are almost the
13 same in both cities, Wilmington and San Pedro. And we
14 would like to keep us together in one district and
15 that's why we are here today. We consider we have the
16 most people and concern on that community. It is very
17 important to keep it in the same district instead to be
18 divided.

19 And, also, I had a letter from a student from
20 San Pedro High School, and I'd like to read it. The
21 name is Max Zelaya, M-a-x; Zelaya is Z-e-l-a-y-a. And
22 the letter say:

23 "I have lived in San Pedro for 12
24 years. I am a 10th grade student at
25 San Pedro High School. As a student,

1 I would like more school especially in
2 San Pedro area because my school is so
3 crowd that classes or classroom are
4 too small. There are more than 60
5 student on each grade and this is so
6 crowded. We need more school there
7 and we need more recreational area."
8 We can get that if we are keeping district all
9 together in order to satisfy necessity for the whole
10 community keeping the same interests. Thus we would
11 like to keep San Pedro and Wilmington in the same
12 district and not be divided.

13 Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir.

15 Go ahead, sir.

16 MR. HIDALGO: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
17 members of the committee. My name is Dick Hidalgo and I
18 am here in behalf of my friend, Adelaida Moreno. The
19 name is spelled A-d-e-l-a-i-d-a and Moreno is
20 M-o-r-e-n-o. What she wrote is this:

21 "I am Adelaida Moreno. I have
22 lived in Wilmington for 25 years and I
23 went to school and I work in
24 Wilmington. I am raising three
25 children that were also born in the

1 same community. My daughter graduated
2 from the same high school I went to.

3 My job is in the community school
4 program that works with low-income
5 families, which is the Head Start
6 program. I am a home visitor that
7 works with the families that are at
8 high risk. I am closely related to
9 their struggles in the overcrowded
10 schools and community free clinics,
11 and their desperation for
12 better-prepared teachers, less crowded
13 classrooms and better staffed
14 clinics. I feel that if we are
15 allowed to join our voting power with
16 our brothers and sisters from
17 San Pedro, we could make the changes
18 possible, such as better schools and
19 extended clinic services, more money
20 to prepare our teachers and to hire
21 new ones. In addition to opening more
22 clinics in our communities that would
23 offer weekend service for those that
24 cannot afford medical insurance,
25 San Pedro and Wilmington share similar

1 problems. That is why I would like to
2 state here that I support the respect
3 for our communities and the
4 communities of interest that exist in
5 this region and do not split them up
6 into multiple assembly districts.
7 Wilmington and San Pedro are one
8 community with one common goal, which
9 is to work towards for a brighter
10 future for our children regardless of
11 race, color, religious beliefs or
12 language."
13 Thank you very much.
14 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir.
15 If by any chance you have a copy of that letter you
16 could leave us, that would be wonderful.
17 Thank you.
18 MS. SAAVEDRA: Good morning, honorable
19 members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before
20 your committee.
21 My name is Bert Saavedra. That's B-e-r-t and
22 Saavedra is S-a-a-v-e-d-r-a. I'm the director of a
23 community-based organization working in the Pico-Union
24 community for nine years. My testimony will recommend
25 the boundaries that will best serve the interests of

1 this community.

2 Pico-Union is located in the central City of
3 Los Angeles. The northern boundary would be Olympic,
4 the southern boundary would be the Santa Monica Freeway,
5 the eastern boundary would be the Harbor Freeway and the
6 western boundary would be Normandie. It sits within two
7 postal zip codes, 906 and 15, with approximately 63,000
8 inhabitants. The majority of the population consists of
9 poor immigrants from Mexico and Central America. Pico
10 Boulevard is the main corridor in Pico-Union and home to
11 many small and medium size business who serve the
12 residents with goods and services. Sprinkled throughout
13 the community are long-time residents who own their own
14 homes and are actively involved in addressing quality of
15 life issues. Pico-Union residents face many challenges:
16 Lack of green space, overcrowded schools, a poor public
17 transportation flow, lack of north and south, lack of
18 affordable housing, currently living in some of the
19 oldest, unreinforced masonry dwellings in the city, high
20 crime, drug trafficking problems and a growing
21 prostitution problem over a concentration -- an
22 over-concentration of alcohol licenses and, most
23 recently, the Rampart scandal.

24 The state and federal further complicate the
25 solutions to our challenges with district boundaries

1 that cut through a community of the approximately 1.9
2 square miles in the midsection of Pico-Union, somewhere
3 around Hoover, which gives us fragmented
4 representation. We currently have three state assembly
5 districts, two state senate districts, three
6 congressional districts sharing our community. Add to
7 this puzzle is the representation of local level
8 government, which consists of one council member but two
9 divisions of the L.A. police department. This is a tad
10 improvement from Echo Park, our neighbor to the north,
11 who has two council members representing the area and
12 two police divisions.

13 One would assume that with all this
14 representation, we would have the challenges we face
15 daily in the Pico-Union area taken care of. As far as
16 accountability is concerned, if we only had one assembly
17 member, one senate member and one congressional member
18 it would be -- it would be a more direct course of
19 action to solve our challenges. This would also prevent
20 the community members from being bounced from door to
21 door, seeking solutions to the challenges.

22 As you know, the foremost reason in drawing
23 lines is to get community representation by elected
24 officials. That equates to improving the quality of
25 life. It is not to cut up a community in such a way

1 that fragments services. We are asking that you keep
2 Pico-Union as one unit of interest for the next 10
3 years, since the method of double and triple
4 representation has not served our community's best
5 interest.

6 This brings to mind a quote I heard recently,
7 which I'd like to paraphrase: That a statesman is a
8 politician that serves the people, and a politician is a
9 statesman that serves themselves. We in Pico-Union
10 deserve the former, and I would appreciate your
11 consideration.

12 We also have maps that show the types of --
13 Pico-Union. And one other map I'd like to show you.
14 This is the boundaries that we're talking about, and all
15 that confetti that's sprinkled throughout are all of the
16 liquor licenses that sort of go through this community.
17 And you can see why we have a high concentration of
18 traffic problems, high concentration of drug problems,
19 prostitution and other issues that we have had for
20 years. We're hopeful that the new boundaries that we're
21 suggesting will alleviate part of our problem and create
22 some solutions.

23 I thank you for your time.

24 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
25 ma'am. And you are providing us copy of the map, by

1 chance?

2 MS. SAAVEDRA: Yes. They're also --

3 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. We

4 appreciate that.

5 MS. SAAVEDRA: We have Jane Scott, Carmen

6 Vaughn and Rudy Cordova, also from Pico-Union, and

7 they're 20-year residents and homeowners.

8 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you.

9 MS. SCOTT: Good afternoon, gentlemen. My name

10 is Jane Frances Scott, S-c-o-t-t, Frances with an "e."

11 I am a resident and a homeowner in Pico-Union since

12 1980. My husband was born and raised in Pico-Union. We

13 have raised our two sons in this community. And I'm a

14 retired college professor from the local community

15 college.

16 I'm a member of the neighborhood which --

17 neighborhood watch, the Alvarado Terrace Homeowners

18 Association, the Windmill Links Community Grass Roots

19 Organization and the Coalition to Improve Quality of

20 Life in Rampart, and the basis is the concept for the

21 mayor's Operation Healthy Neighborhoods.

22 Our community, Pico-Union, has traditionally

23 and historically been within the boundaries of Santa

24 Monica Freeway, Harbor Freeway, Olympic Boulevard and

25 Normandie Avenue. This is the geographic area brought

1 to mind when we talk about Pico-Union.

2 We have a population of about 63,000 people of
3 diverse origins, cultures and beliefs. Our community is
4 represented by one council district, three different
5 state assembly representatives, two different state
6 senators and two different representatives in Congress.
7 Does this make any sense at all to you?

8 We respectfully ask you to respect our
9 community and do not divide our community in fragments,
10 so that none of us get any decent representation in the
11 multiple districts because we will be small and we won't
12 matter. We ask that you really respect our concerns
13 when you draw up new district boundaries. We no longer
14 want, nor wish to be known as Pico-Union, the dumping
15 ground of Los Angeles. We have a voice and want to be
16 heard by you. If you don't or won't hear us, we can and
17 will find our louder voice.

18 Pico-Union is very unique. We have the largest
19 intact area of the turn-of-the-last-century homes west
20 of the Mississippi River. We have homes on the National
21 Historic Register and on the city's historic register.
22 We are working to get an Historic Protection Overlay
23 Zone, known as an HPOZ, for our community, as well as
24 trying to stop the indiscriminate demolition of our
25 moderately significant historic homes. Even the

1 moderately historic homes add to the flavor of our
2 community.

3 The various sections of Pico-Union are similar
4 in that there are many houses which are single family
5 residences and historic, as well as many fine old
6 apartment buildings. Many of our resident owners are
7 beginning to paint and refurbish these old houses,
8 making them beautiful once again and making them the
9 gems of Los Angeles once again. This is creating a
10 pride of ownership again in our community.

11 Our residents are from all races, black, white,
12 Latin, Asian and Islanders, as well as diverse cultures,
13 Euro-American, Mexican, Salvadoran, Korean, Filipino,
14 Ecuadorian and Greek. We run the gamut of the various
15 levels of income. Some residents are affluent and some
16 are very poor.

17 The greatest factor is that most of our
18 residents like living in Pico-Union. We don't see the
19 blighted area that the media sees. We do have our
20 problems, but we are becoming more and more organized
21 and are starting to make a big difference in
22 Pico-Union. Please help us keep Pico-Union intact.
23 Give us the representation that we deserve and the
24 services that are afforded the more affluent areas of
25 Los Angeles and California. Please do not keep

1 Pico-Union pictured as the downtrodden, blighted,
2 God-forsaken area of Los Angeles that many people in
3 other parts of the city are terrified to enter. Help us
4 make Pico-Union the showcase of Los Angeles. There are
5 many, many good people who live here.

6 We believe that if we are in one district
7 instead of three, we will finally have representatives
8 on all levels of government who will keep our interests
9 in mind and work for us and not against us.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
12 ma'am.

13 And next.

14 MS. VAUGHN: Good afternoon. Thank you so much
15 for allowing me to speak to you. I'm just going to be
16 very short. My name is Carmen Vaughn, C-a-r-m-e-n V- as
17 in Victor -a-u-g-h-n.

18 I'll again just say, right now we want to keep
19 Pico-Union in one single place. We don't want to be
20 divided. Because finally, after many years, the whole
21 community is working together. We try to clean our
22 neighbors. We like to stay as a one single unit, we
23 don't want to be divided.

24 I've been living in Pico-Union for many years.
25 I raised my kids in there, and I'm very proud of my

1 kids. Yes, everybody talking so bad about Pico-Union.
2 But because is a lot of good people that living there,
3 we make the difference. And we want you to help us to
4 keep our neighbor in one place and don't divide it.
5 Because finally we -- the neighborhood is united and we
6 fighting to have a better life.

7 So that's all I have to say. Thank you so
8 much.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
10 ma'am.

11 And next member of the panel?

12 MR. DeCORDOVA: My name is Rudy Tenorio
13 DeCordova. That's T-e-n-o-r-i-o De, D-e C-o-r-d-o-v-a.
14 I'm president of Pico-Union Heights Neighborhood
15 Association. Our organization is dedicated to improving
16 the quality of life in Pico-Union.

17 Over the course of 30 years, our community has
18 declined. But I've seen a tremendous positive change in
19 the last five years. The community residents are coming
20 together as a community and we're demanding fair
21 representation, we're demanding fair city services.

22 The organization, our neighborhood association,
23 at our most recent neighborhood association meeting, we
24 have concluded that we would like to have one state
25 assembly, one senate representative, and we ask that the

1 boundaries be honored with the boundaries that Bert
2 Saavedra mentioned, Olympic Boulevard on the north,
3 Normandie Boulevard on the west, Santa Monica Freeway on
4 the south and the Harbor Freeway on the east.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

7 Do we have any additional members of the
8 panel?

9 Okay.

10 MS. SORIANO: Hello. My name is Mayra Soriano,
11 M-a-r- -- I'm sorry -- M-a-y-r-a S-o-r-i-a-n-o and I'm
12 here to speak on behalf of Mr. Carlos Vaquerano,
13 C-a-r-l-o-s V-a-q-u-e-r-a-n-o. He's the executive
14 director of SALEF, which is the Salvadoran-American
15 Leadership and Educational Fund.

16 "Dear members of the Assembly
17 Elections, Reapportionment and
18 Constitutional Amendment Committee:

19 Hello and good morning. My name
20 is Carlos Vaquerano, and I have worked
21 for over 20 years in Los Angeles
22 advocating for human and immigrant
23 rights especially in the Pico-Union
24 district. I am the executive director
25 of the Salvadoran-American Leadership

1 and Educational Fund, (SALEF) a
2 nonprofit, non-partisan, civic and
3 educational organization committed to
4 expanding opportunities for
5 Salvadoran-Americans and other Central
6 American communities in the United
7 States. Our main goals are community
8 empowerment, leadership
9 development" --
10 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Miss? Just a little bit
11 slower, if you can.
12 MS. SORIANO: " -- and providing
13 educational support. SALEF serves the
14 Central American and other Latino
15 populations especially those residing
16 in the Pico-Union area, thus we
17 recognize their needs and concerns.
18 Los Angeles has the second largest
19 concentration of Salvadorans in the
20 world, surpassed only by San Salvador,
21 the capital of El Salvador. According
22 to the 1990 census, there are
23 approximately 1 million Salvadorans
24 living in the United States,
25 approximately 400,000 of those reside

1 in Los Angeles County. This number
2 represent 15 to 20 percent of the
3 entire population of El Salvador.
4 Salvadorans now constitute the fourth
5 largest Latino community in the United
6 States, the largest community in
7 Washington, D.C. and the second
8 largest Latino community in
9 California.

10 Despite their demographic
11 significance, these immigrants live
12 below this "economic divide," earning
13 less than non-immigrants earn. The
14 Pico-Union/Westlake District, where
15 SALEF is located and which is home to
16 the largest concentration of
17 Salvadoran and Central American
18 immigrant population in Los Angeles
19 has a poverty rate of 35 percent,
20 almost that of the City of
21 Los Angeles. Most residents are the
22 working poor with a median income for
23 a family of four is less than \$16,000
24 per year. Consistent with preceding
25 immigration cycles, many individuals

1 arrived with trade skills that are
2 most appropriate to service
3 industries. To compound the
4 community's limited skill base, 46
5 percent of residents age 25 and older
6 have completed less than a ninth-grade
7 education; the majority of this
8 community lives in linguistic
9 isolation, as more than 60 percent of
10 Pico-Union residents report that no
11 one in the household over age 14 can
12 speak English well. Most working
13 adults are employed in low-income
14 manufacturing, garment and service
15 industries and in various aspects of
16 the "underground" economy, where
17 employers provide few or no health
18 care benefits. In addition to the
19 absence of private insurance coverage,
20 the majority lack access to a safety
21 net of public benefits, as most are
22 ineligible for health or other
23 government programs.

24 During a forum last year in
25 Washington D.C., former President Bill

1 Clinton acknowledged the huge
2 educational divide that exists between
3 Latinos and other groups in general,
4 and the Latino community's
5 marginalization from 'the new digital
6 economy' in particular. The Council
7 of Economic Advisors to the White
8 House released a report, which
9 revealed that although Latinos
10 represent 11 percent of the labor
11 force, they constitute only 4 percent
12 of professionals in "high tech"
13 industries. The report links
14 this 'digital divide' to the lack of
15 educational opportunities and programs
16 from preschool up through college age
17 Latino Americans. Only 30 percent of
18 Latino children have access to
19 preschool programs compared to 45
20 percent of Anglos and 50 percent of
21 African Americans; only 63 percent of
22 Latinos have completed secondary
23 school in comparison to 88 percent of
24 Anglos, and the proportion of Latinos
25 who graduate from universities is less

1 than 50 percent of the Anglo rate for
2 college graduation. Clearly, these
3 low levels of education have a huge
4 impact on the economic well being of
5 our communities, whose salaries fall
6 21 percent below the average for
7 Anglos.

8 SALEF joins MALDEF and the William
9 C. Velasquez Institute in urging you
10 to support the enforcement of the
11 Voting Rights Act, which insures our
12 community's votes are not diluted.
13 Respect the Central American and other
14 communities that reside in the area by
15 not splitting them up into multiple
16 assembly districts. It is pertinent
17 that the needs of the Salvadoran and
18 Central American communities be
19 addressed when considering the
20 redrawing of district lines.

21 Once again on behalf of SALEF and
22 the Central American community, I
23 thank you for your consideration of
24 this testimony."

25 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

1 Do we have any other members on the panel?

2 MR. VALEZ: No more speakers, Mr. Longville.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. We

5 appreciate your taking the time to be with us this

6 morning.

7 Mr. Leonard?

8 MR. LEONARD: One informational question that

9 maybe Mrs. Saavedra ...

10 Pico-Union, what's the population within the

11 boundaries, that you gave us?

12 MS. SAAVEDRA: As of the 1990 census, it was

13 approximately 63,000 in a 1.9 square mile. And so we're

14 in that --

15 MR. LEONARD: That's the '90 census?

16 MS. SAAVEDRA: Correct. Correct. We're the

17 most over-concentrated -- as you know -- well, that's

18 one zip code, throughout the 1.9 square miles. It's is

19 a very populated environment.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Certainly.

24 Thank you very much.

25 And at this time I'm going to insert -- do we

1 have Council Member Bradford? Council Member Bradford
2 coming forward.

3 And is it Council Member or Mayor Pro Tem?

4 MR. BRADFORD: Mayor Pro Tem.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Mayor Pro Tem. Okay.

6 Well, I know that also includes council member, having
7 spent time doing that, but I just want to give you the
8 highest title you're entitled to, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Mr. George Magallanes.

10 (The following proceedings were
11 reported by Stephanie L. Ellis)

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1 MR. BRADFORD: I appreciate it. Good
2 afternoon. My name is Steve Bradford, Mayor Pro Tem,
3 the City of Gardena, and it's truly an honor to come
4 before this panel and briefly share with you my concerns
5 as it relates to the City of Gardena and where we fall.

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Slower. Slower.

7 MR. BRADFORD: Slower.

8 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: The court reporter's
9 fingers are catching fire.

10 MR. BRADFORD: I thought she was doing about
11 100 words a minute, but I guess not.

12 Again, to express our concerns as it relates to
13 the redrawing of assembly district lines. I think for
14 the assembly and all that are involved, this is probably
15 going to be the most challenging reapportionment session
16 ever in the history of the assembly simply due to the
17 term limits, and that many that are drawing the lines
18 today will not be here to see them carried out or even
19 to represent those districts.

20 And our concern is that in the past, what
21 primarily had driven party lines -- or the lines were
22 mainly party affiliations, and we feel now that it's
23 become more of an ethnic drawing, a gerrymandering, so
24 to speak, of the lines as to the proposed propositions
25 that we've heard. We've heard that Gardena will be

1 split in half, bifurcated, and that's not a desire of
2 the citizens of Gardena. We've heard that Gardena will
3 be moved over into the 55th Assembly District, and
4 that's not desires of the residents of Gardena. We've
5 heard that there's a possibility that we'll be shifted
6 over into 51st Assembly District, and that's not desires
7 of the city of Gardena and the residents either.

8 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Even a little slower
9 still. I appreciate it. I know --

10 MR. BRADFORD: Usually we only have three
11 minutes; so we gotta get it done.

12 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: We're going to go ahead
13 and let you take your time.

14 MR. BRADFORD: Okay. So the point I'm making
15 is that I stand here asking that the 52nd, as it is
16 currently drawn, be maintained intact. There are
17 alliances that have been created over the last ten years
18 that many of those cities are working toward common
19 goals as far as development and enterprise zones in
20 those corridors to bring forth light development and
21 shared resources and interests.

22 Also, as it relates to me personally, I stand
23 before you as the first and only African American
24 elected in the city that clearly the demographics
25 wouldn't state that an African American would be

1 elected. So I share with you that the will of the
2 people will be done. If ethnic diversity is what you
3 want, it will be represented by the voters more so than
4 the alignments that much of this is being driven by
5 today.

6 Gardena's next to Carson. It's probably one of
7 the most ethnically diverse cities in this nation, and
8 we are very sensitive that the alignments that we have
9 is a very diverse district at this time, and the
10 proposed changes right now will make us more ethnically
11 centric, and that's not the desires of the City of
12 Gardena or the residents there. And we just want to
13 make sure that we are represented and our city is
14 maintained and again, the ten years that have been put
15 in place to form alliances with those cities could be
16 maintained in order to move forth in a common goal and a
17 common interest. And I thank you for your time.

18 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Mayor Pro Tem Bradford, if
19 I might just -- you referred several times to the
20 proposed lines. We haven't proposed any lines. We're
21 just wondering which lines you're talking about, the
22 proposed lines.

23 MR. BRADFORD: There's a lot of talk.

24 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Oh, I see. It's just out
25 of rumor?

1 MR. BRADFORD: I mean -- exactly -- oh, well, I
2 mean, I'm pretty sure most of what you're hearing today
3 is conjecture from what people have heard and what is
4 being battled around. So we know that there is a plan in
5 place, and we are just here to --

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: You know that there is a
7 plan in place from where, though?

8 MR. BRADFORD: I mean there is a plan to redraw
9 these lines, and there's a plan in place, and we just
10 want to be on record to make sure that we have our
11 concerns being heard, just as the mayor of Carson was
12 here before, and there's talk of splitting Carson in
13 half too.

14 So there are these rumors that are being
15 bantered around, and we're just here to stand before you
16 and let you know whether they are real or imagined, that
17 here's where we stand on that as far --

18 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: That's what we're looking
19 for. Thank you.

20 MR. BRADFORD: Okay. Thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you for coming.

22 I next had school board member from Compton,
23 Basil Kimbrew.

24 MR. KIMBREW: Good afternoon. I'm Basil
25 Kimbrew. I'm on the Compton school board. I'm also the

1 52nd A.D. chair in the district. And as everyone knows
2 here, we were very successful in making a change
3 yesterday in our city.

4 Our district has really changed over the last
5 ten years. In Compton we are now close to 65 percent
6 Latino and 35 percent African American, and then when
7 you go outside to my school district, we're, like,
8 79 percent Latino and, like, 31 percent African
9 American. So there has been a shift in the
10 Compton-Watts-Willowbrook area. The 52nd, as you know,
11 takes in Gardena Lakewood, part of Watts, and half of
12 Compton.

13 Our desires are to make sure that -- we would
14 like to have Compton to be whole. We never could
15 understand why they split us down the middle. Even if
16 you go towards Carson, going south, our district has
17 changed dramatically in regards to, you know, the
18 population. We're not as diverse as Carson or some of
19 the other districts. It has clearly shifted.

20 Our desires, as I stated earlier, is that we
21 want to stay whole, but we also want to be able to make
22 sure that we're not put somewhere else. We enjoy a
23 great relationship as the way we are.

24 My problem in this whole scenario is that in
25 Compton we're getting a lot of flak in regards to one

1 ethnic group versus another. And we have that problem
2 to a point, but we don't have that problem to a point.
3 And the Latinos and the African Americans, we really do
4 work together. And our desires are, when it's all said
5 and done -- as we already know our assembly person has
6 turned out -- we just want the best person who we feel
7 would represent the community. We don't want to get
8 caught up in a black-and-brown thing. We don't want to
9 do that. We just want, you know, however it comes down,
10 somebody that has the needs of our community.

11 And I'm glad that you're having these hearings,
12 and I was hoping that there would probably be more
13 people. But in regards to drawing the lines, me being
14 on the school board, I understand what it means to be
15 working with a somewhat of diverse people. And now,
16 even on my school board, even though the school board
17 is -- our district's 79 percent Latino, but we only have
18 one Latino on the school board, and that's because of a
19 lot of Latinos in our area haven't in the past gone out
20 and voted, but they're starting to vote now because they
21 were very successful in helping me in replacing the
22 current leadership we have now, and I'm very proud of
23 that. So that proved a point last Tuesday that we work
24 well together.

25 So however you draw the lines or however you do

1 what you have to do, I just hope that you keep in mind
2 that when you cut the line, that we basically want to
3 stay whole in Compton. We really do. And we want to
4 send a message to the -- they asked me to come speak.
5 We want to send a message to the state assembly people
6 that we do work well there, and we don't want Compton to
7 be put into a racial war. We don't want that.

8 We just want to stay whole, and we want to be
9 able to have our choice to choose the best person who we
10 feel might make in the future the next assembly person
11 in our district who would represent not just one person
12 but all the people. And I thank you for giving me this
13 opportunity to speak.

14 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much for
15 coming forward as well.

16 And before I go on to our next panel, I just
17 wanted to double check. I had an individual who had
18 sent a sign-up sheet that identifies as an affiliation
19 the City of Long Beach. Is this an elected official
20 from Long Beach?

21 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: We're withdrawing that.

22 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Okay. All right. We'll
23 be coming up. And before I go to the panel, one more
24 assembly member has testimony. Unfortunately, Assembly
25 Member Jackie Goldberg can't be here today. She's

1 working on budget matters today. However, to read her
2 testimony into the record, I have her district rep here,
3 which is George Magallena -- excuse me -- "Magallanes."

4 MR. MAGALLANES: That is correct.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: "Magallanes."

6 MR. MAGALLANES: Thank you, Chairman Longville,
7 for giving me this opportunity to read a letter from
8 Assembly Member Goldberg into the record.

9 As I stated, my name is George Magallanes,
10 G-e-o-r-g-e, last name, M-a-g-a-l-l-a-n-e-s. And I'd
11 like to begin by letting you know that Assembly
12 Member Goldberg is very excited that redistricting
13 hearings are taking place close to home and that there
14 are members from the community here today to make
15 suggestions and raise concerns before you today.

16 The letter states -- this is directed towards
17 Chairman Longville --

18 "My preliminary thoughts on the
19 reapportionment issues are as follows:

20 "According to information I have been
21 given, the 45th Assembly District must grow
22 in size based on the figures from Census
23 2000. I have met the communities of
24 interest and would like to make the
25 following observations.

1 "First, the district should encompass
2 all of the Hollywood areas from La Brea on
3 the west to Franklin Avenue on the north
4 and Melrose on the south. This would put
5 all of the residents who are not hill
6 dwellers in Hollywood in the same district.
7 Right now people who are new Central
8 American and Thai immigrants are in the
9 area on the edge of the district with many
10 fewer immigrants from similar cultures.
11 Also, there is great similarities between
12 them and those that are in the adjacent
13 area to the east of La Brea, already a part
14 of the 45th Assembly District.

15 "Second, on the south end of the
16 district, it would be good to extend the
17 southern boundaries to Third Street between
18 Oxford on the west to Beaudry on the east.
19 This, too, would unify residents of similar
20 socioeconomic background into one district.

21 "Third, the district stops abruptly at
22 Sunset and Alameda. It would be useful to
23 extend the district east along Sunset, now
24 Cesar Chavez Boulevard, to the Los Angeles
25 River.

1 "Fourth, any part of Lincoln Heights
2 now served by the 45th Assembly District
3 should be added to it.

4 "Fifth, Eagle Rock is divided between
5 two districts, as is Boyle Heights and
6 Atwater. Each would like to be entirely in
7 one district.

8 "The current 45th Assembly District
9 serves a wonderfully diverse set of
10 communities, all within the boundaries of
11 the City of Los Angeles. I believe it
12 should continue to do so, but that
13 additions and deletions in population
14 should reflect the current character of the
15 district and bring divided communities
16 together.

17 "I hope this input is useful to you in
18 your efforts to complete an essential and
19 daunting task.

20 "Sincerely, Jackie Goldberg, Assembly
21 Member, 45th District."

22 Thank you very much, Chairman Longville and
23 members.

24 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir,
25 for coming.

1 And let's see. Our next panel -- actually, I'm
2 sorry. It's actually just one individual, but it's
3 representing the California Latino Redistricting
4 Coalition, Incorporated, Mr. Alan Clayton.

5 And, Mr. Clayton, before you begin, let me just
6 alert the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair
7 Redistricting that we will be taking that group next.

8 So with that, Mr. Clayton, the microphone is
9 yours.

10 MR. CLAYTON: Thank you very much,
11 Chairman Longville and Member Leonard, Member Horton.
12 I've been before your committee a number of times on the
13 issues dealing with reapportionment.

14 From a historical perspective, I've been doing
15 reapportionment for approximately 15 years, city,
16 county, school district reapportionment. In 1991 I
17 spent almost a year working on California
18 reapportionment. So I'm very familiar with the
19 experience of reapportionment and the pitfalls of
20 organizations that watch out for the civil rights in
21 minority communities that are not vigilant.

22 In 1991 I did a lot of discussions and training
23 of individuals on the Voting Rights Act in communities
24 of interest and worked with other organizations such as
25 Maldef to ensure that the voting rights for Latinos were

1 protected. Historically, in 1991 all of the plans that
2 came forward we challenged at one point or another based
3 on problems dealing with dividing Latino communities.
4 Some were better than ours.

5 The assembly AB&C Plan was one of the worst
6 because it cut up Latino communities all over California
7 to protect Democratic incumbents. And the governor's
8 plan was similarly, in my mind, a reapportionment
9 disaster in terms of voting rights for ethnic
10 minorities. I just have to believe they didn't
11 understand the law. That's being generous.

12 So at this time I come, having been through
13 this process. Reapportionment is the toughest political
14 process out there because you're changing people's lives
15 through changing their communities. So I do look very
16 seriously on the process as far as not cutting up
17 communities of interest, but I also look at the issue of
18 where there are protected groups, that lines were drawn
19 in 1991 after many, many hearings by the senate, after
20 testimony before the special masters, review by the
21 State Supreme Court which affirmed the special masters,
22 and also a three-judge panel which found in litigation
23 that there was an allegation of violation of the
24 14th Amendment, that there was not a violation because
25 the lines were fairly drawn. They did use race, but

1 they used it as a factor, but they used geographic
2 compactness contiguousness and a number of other issues.

3 So in starting out, I think we do have a basis
4 to go back and look at Witt vs. Wilson and the special
5 master's findings I think we have a need to go back and
6 study history because history teaches a lot. We need to
7 look at what Witt vs. Wilson taught us, what the special
8 masters taught us. And having been through the process,
9 I think we have to be vigilant.

10 Some of the issues that I've raised in previous
11 meetings that I will raise again because I want to make
12 sure that they are resolved because I believe they could
13 have a negative impact on minority communities, they
14 could have a negative impact on the Latino community.
15 One deals with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

16 My concern is that there be no attempt to, in
17 any shape or form, go to court that ask that Section 5,
18 which currently covers four counties in California, be
19 changed, be taken away from us. Section 5 and Section 2
20 were part of the Civil Rights movement in the '60s and
21 the '70s. They came about as a result of individuals
22 wanting to try to ensure the voting practices did not
23 discriminate against minorities, fragmented or overly
24 packed districts. And as a result of that, we've seen a
25 change in the face of California.

1 An example of Section 5 and Section 2, when
2 applied fairly, is the final redistricting. We started
3 out in 1991 with four Latinos in the assembly. Because
4 the lines were redrawn that fairly represented where the
5 concentrations of the Latino community were and did not
6 fragment that community, we went from four -- we've been
7 up to 16. Currently we have 15 members in the assembly
8 that are Democrat and 4 that are Republican. So thanks
9 to the Voting Rights Act and thanks to the special
10 masters, we saw a tremendous turnaround in California,
11 and Latinos were finally included in the political
12 process thanks to the courts. In the senate we went
13 from three seats to seven, and, again, thanks to the
14 Voting Rights Act and thanks to the special masters and
15 thanks to the court.

16 So in this particular process, I hope that it
17 gets resolved at the legislative level. I understand
18 how the court process works. I understand how divisive
19 it is, but I understand also that the courts do protect
20 the votings rights of Latinos and other minority groups.

21 So those are some of the issues. Again,
22 Section 5 should stay. It's something that was fought
23 for. It's something that is very good to part of the
24 redistricting because it protects minorities from having
25 their votes diluted in four districts, and those are

1 districts that met the criteria that was laid down
2 nationally.

3 The other issue that I come before you on --
4 this is not the first time -- it's numerous times -- is
5 the issue of voter deferral. Voter deferral deals with
6 where a district has changed the number. So some
7 individuals may be voting at one time; some individuals
8 may be voting at another.

9 Back in 1991 the special masters did not put on
10 as a criteria in their drawing of the lines voter
11 deferral. It was not mentioned as a concern by the
12 State Supreme Court, and in the ruling of the
13 three-judge panel in Witt vs. Wilson it was not
14 mentioned either.

15 I appeared before the senate and specifically
16 asked about the voter deferral issue. They are
17 collecting the data there. I don't have a problem with
18 collecting data. What I do have a problem with -- and
19 I've stated it a number of times -- is when you use
20 voter deferral as a criteria which it currently is --
21 unless it's been changed recently, and I'm not aware of
22 that -- in the assembly.

23 I think voter deferral as a criteria co-equal
24 with communities of interest with issues of compactness
25 and contiguousness, one person/one vote, makes

1 absolutely no sense. And I'm very suspicious, having
2 been around this process for 15 years, as to why it is
3 there, and I've asked repeatedly, and I hope that the
4 assembly takes a very strong look at this, and I hope
5 they rescind that. And I thank Assemblyman Leonard's
6 remarks at the last hearing over that particular issue.

7 So those are some of the background issues that
8 I wanted to raise.

9 On the issue of Section 2, some people have
10 believed that Section 2 has been weakened so that there
11 are no longer protections. My belief is that
12 individuals that believe that in governmental agencies
13 do that at their own peril. Section 2 is alive and
14 well. You just have to follow the dictates that have
15 been laid down by the U.S. Supreme Court, which I'm very
16 familiar with since I teach a workshop dealing with
17 reapportionment law, as far as what you can do and can't
18 do under the current court lines.

19 Some of the issues -- one of the issues, I did
20 receive a letter -- and I thank you -- from
21 Assemblyman Longville, dealing with the issue of the
22 650,000. I am looking at that issue. I will probably
23 put something in writing. If not, I will testify in the
24 future.

25 I'm looking at where, for example, you have a

1 senate seat where one assemblyperson is in one county
2 and one assemblyperson is in L.A. County. That occurs
3 at least once. And there's also cities that are split
4 where maybe we could make whole, for example, Pomona.
5 So I'm looking around, but it's a very difficult
6 process. When I do present that, I want to be very
7 precise because you also have the issue with
8 congressional districts where they go over county lines,
9 and I think we can look at that. In fact, one
10 congressional district is in three different counties.
11 So I think we need to look at those particular issues.

12 On the issues dealing with the Voting Rights
13 Act as far as particular communities, the concern that I
14 have is where they're cohesive minority communities or
15 where the courts in 1991 identified that there were
16 communities and drew districts that reflected the Voting
17 Rights Act, that before those changes are made, there's
18 a very careful analysis.

19 So I think the court -- by and large, I didn't
20 agree with everything, but I think overall the court did
21 a very thoughtful analysis, and, of course, that
22 analysis was scrutinized by the State Supreme Court.
23 And some of you may know that all over the United States
24 plans were struck down.

25 Based on the Shaw ruling, where race was used

1 as a predominant factor, or the Miller ruling, Bush vs.
2 Vera, where basically they used partisan, but it was
3 really a mask for races, the court said, we know that
4 you can use race as a factor. We also know from
5 Comarite, which is a new decision that came down, a
6 five-four decision, they can also look at the issues of
7 partisanship. So all of those issues, I think, need to
8 be looked at.

9 One of the other issues that was brought up, I
10 think very appropriately, by Reverend Campbell is the
11 issue dealing with the African American community and to
12 not fragment cohesive areas in the African American
13 community, and we look forward to working with
14 individuals in the African American community to assure
15 that whatever lines come up are fair and equitable to
16 the African American community and there's not any
17 attempt to take back civil rights that were fought for,
18 and I think that's a very important issue.

19 Another issue deals with how you design
20 districts. I'm going to be looking at all of the
21 districts in California and probably doing -- even if we
22 do not present a plan, we will surely critically analyze
23 every single plan so that when it goes back to your
24 committee, you will get those analyses, and hopefully
25 you will take heed to them because I think that last

1 time we were able to show that we do understand the
2 Voting Rights Act and we do understand what the courts
3 would require.

4 One district that I will bring up is the
5 49th district because I happen to live in that district
6 and I am familiar with it. One of the issues that may
7 arise on the 49th is how you reconfigure it. Currently
8 that district's Spanish surname registration I believe
9 would meet the test of a Section 2. Also the senate
10 district that is there currently held by Dr. Romero I
11 believe would meet to test of Section 2.

12 There are two issues that I would look at right
13 away in designing that district. One, obviously --
14 well, actually, there's three major issues, and I'm
15 going to go through each one. One is the communities of
16 interest. Look at that issue, go back and look what
17 testimony was there in 1991 in the discussions in '91
18 and why it was carved out the way it was because I was
19 around and in those discussions and I know why it -- and
20 I think I do know why it was carved out that way because
21 the areas of Alhambra, San Gabriel, Rosemead, and
22 Monterey Park were kept together in combination with
23 El Sereno and the vast majority of East Los Angeles.

24 This time in any discussions about cutting up
25 that district or fragmenting the cohesive Latino

1 community, I think you need to proceed with caution.
2 There are a couple reasons there. One of them deals
3 specifically with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.
4 So any attempt to, my belief is, fragment or undermine
5 what was fought for and what was gained through the
6 court, we're going to look at very critically, just like
7 we would look at any attempt to do that to the African
8 American community in districts that were designed by
9 the court.

10 One of the other areas to look at in particular
11 in that area is also registration. Because one of the
12 things that I've been involved in in over 30 years is
13 politics, I'm very familiar with how you draw lines. So
14 I do look at registration numbers. I just finished
15 working for a computer center on another map for another
16 jurisdiction, and I looked at registration data for days
17 in drawing districts because it's very important to look
18 at that. You don't want to go in there and destabilize
19 an individual, be it a Republican or a Democrat, if
20 you're trying to draw reasonable lines because what you
21 end up with is getting somebody that will not vote for
22 your plan because of partisan reasons. So I just bring
23 this to your attention.

24 And as I said, when I see plans, I will follow
25 a very detailed analysis, but some of the data -- for

1 example, currently in the district is El Sereno.
2 El Sereno has 12,782 Democrats, 2,752 Republicans. It's
3 a heavily Democratic area. Belvedere Gardens, 12,676
4 Democrats, 1,452 Republicans, heavily Democratic.
5 City Terrace, 10,715 Democrats, 1,249 Republicans.
6 Again, eight-to-one Democrat. Eastmont, 455 -- let's
7 see -- Republicans, 3,375, nine to one. Those four
8 areas I would believe any political analysis would tell
9 you they're very heavily Democrat. They vote Democrat.
10 And these are very loyal Democratic voters. I know that
11 because I've worked in those areas before.

12 Some of the areas that have been discussed as
13 potential to put in -- and, again, I'm waiting to see
14 the maps. One of the areas I've heard talk about is
15 Arcadia. One of the concerns I have with Arcadia is
16 Republican-Democratic. Republican is 13,661,
17 Republicans. Democrat is 8,057. That's clearly to me a
18 Republican area. And since Democrats voted a lesser
19 turnout than Republicans, it's probably even stronger
20 Republican. San Marino, 3,632 Republicans, 2,760
21 Democrats. Again, I believe that is a Republican area.

22 When you analyze elections -- I know this, and
23 I think any member of the panel knows this and anybody
24 who's a political consultant -- that I always would be
25 able to see higher Democrat than Republican, and most

1 people would want to have at least ten points minimum.
2 Minimum. I would say a lot of members would want to
3 have more than ten points to be safe because you can
4 lose in a debacle which many members found out in 1994
5 can happen. So I think the panel is well aware of the
6 need to make sure that you do not have a partisan
7 advantage that goes beneath a certain level. Now, that
8 doesn't mean you can't always win because in San Diego
9 you have a lot of independent voters and you have people
10 that win a lot closer. But I think I look at things
11 very cautiously, having been involved in the process.

12 The other area, South Pasadena, 5,331
13 Republicans, 6,603. Basically, in terms of voter
14 turnout, that would lean Republican. Temple City is
15 almost on the nose 6,552 Republican, 6,536 Democrat.
16 Again, on voter turnout, that would be Republican would
17 be my belief as somebody who's been involved in
18 politics.

19 I also looked at -- I went through and looked
20 at Latino voting strength in those areas because if
21 you're going to deal with a Section 2 district, I'm
22 going to look to see what you're doing when you move
23 stuff. Arcadia had 28,149 voters. Latino was 2,214.
24 Again, I think any objective person would say there's
25 not a very strong Latino voter presence there.

1 San Marino, 338, 8,576. I think any objective person
2 would say that's not an area you'd put in if you were
3 moving heavily areas that were Spanish surname. I think
4 they would say you're looking at destabilization of the
5 voting rights district.

6 South Pasadena, 1,954, Latino surname
7 registration, 15,320. Again, there you want to look at
8 that and say, well, I don't -- it seems to me that
9 community does not have a very large voting strength.
10 Temple City, 2,764 versus 16,785. Again, you would say
11 that area -- you would not look at that area when you're
12 looking at overall 47 percent voting strength when the
13 voting strength there is obviously way less than
14 20 percent. It's something that would be put in from
15 the standpoint of potentially violating the Voting
16 Rights Act.

17 Now, when you look at any one of those four,
18 that doesn't mean that you can't look at one of four
19 because it may not. We don't know yet until we look at
20 the data. Now let's look at El Sereno and see the
21 difference. El Sereno currently in the district, 12,708
22 Spanish surname voters, 19,141. The difference is
23 overwhelming. That's a heavily concentrated area where
24 you have a very strong community that is currently in
25 the district that is heavily Latino voters, including

1 heavily Democratic, as I've already pointed out.

2 Belvedere Court, 14,736 out of 16,501. That's

3 about as strong as you can get from a voting strength

4 because I know that community very well. I used to live

5 there in that particular area. And it's basically a

6 solid Latino community with solid community support and

7 solid voting strength. City Terrace, 14,086, 12,499.

8 Again, that's a solid area, solidly Latino, solid Latino

9 voter strength that's currently in there. There are not

10 all the tracts in each of these. There's a few tracts

11 that aren't, but the predominant area is in there.

12 Eastmont, 4,458 total voters, 3,881, again,

13 like City Terrace, Belvedere, and El Sereno. I think

14 any political scientist who would give you an objective

15 view would say that area obviously is a very strong area

16 where the Latino community has had history of electing

17 candidates, and they have. Now, that doesn't mean that

18 the Latino community has to vote for a Latino candidate

19 because we've seen in races where the Latino community

20 has chosen to vote for a candidate of another group.

21 The Voting Rights Act does not guarantee that you get an

22 outcome. All the Voting Rights Act guarantees is that

23 minority groups that are in an area that is a regionally

24 viable area, where you can show that there's a community

25 of interest, in this case the court recognized that.

1 This was not myself. This was a State Supreme Court
2 after basically reviewing 12 days of testimony,
3 22 plans, and also having 6 days of testimony and then
4 allowing legal briefs to be filed in testimony before
5 the court because I was there during that process. So
6 I'm familiar with it. They did say that area they
7 believed was, in my opinion, a Section 2 district, and
8 that area has gotten stronger over the time.

9 So my point is, since I lived there, I did want
10 to bring up that particular district because I live in
11 that district, and I think we've seen instances of
12 polarized voting. I think we've seen instances of
13 coalitions. But the bottom line is the community. The
14 community cannot have its area fragmented. The same
15 issues, I think, are very important to the African
16 American community. They're equally important to the
17 Latino community because historically in redistricting
18 we've seen communities of interest fragmented.

19 I remember the southeast cities were cut up
20 three different ways. Currently they're together, and
21 we'll be looking at those this time to see on the issue
22 dealing with -- as far as registration and a whole
23 variety of issues. Because the other thing that comes
24 up -- and I'm very familiar with this, just having dealt
25 with drawing a major map -- things change too. So we'd

1 look at all those issues.

2 And we will go and look -- one of the problems
3 when you're talking to people about redistricting is to
4 ensure when they're drawing that they know the rules
5 because if you go in a vacuum and you say, "Well, draw
6 something nice," because I know how sophisticated the
7 process is, or "Draw something you think's good," those
8 individuals who are very sincere may draw something that
9 may look reasonably good, but they're not going into
10 socioeconomic, they're not going into the voting rights,
11 they're not looking where they're fragmenting cohesive
12 communities, and they're not looking at the history of
13 what the courts have already decided.

14 All those things I think are very important and
15 I think should be considered. I look forward to
16 appearing before the committee in the future. I look
17 forward to the committee reaffirming that Section 5 is
18 an integral part of California redistricting and should,
19 in no shape or form, be taken away from us. And also I
20 look forward to the committee ensuring that voter
21 deferral go to statistical data collection but not as a
22 criteria that is used co-equally with communities of
23 interest.

24 And I also hope this time we don't have to go
25 through the court process. I'm very familiar with it.

1 I know how to file a legal brief, and I know how to do
2 the analysis, and I know how to argue before the State
3 Supreme Court. And I'm hoping that this year you
4 balance the issues of partisanship with the Voting
5 Rights Act and with fairness and with communities of
6 interest. And I thank you and look forward to speaking
7 before you again in the future.

8 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much again,
9 Mr. Clayton.

10 We will next have a panel from the Coalition of
11 Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting. And let
12 me, before I have them begin, note that after that,
13 we'll take a 10- or 15-minute break, just to alert
14 people. What I'll probably do is announce a 10-minute
15 break, and it will take 15 minutes before we finish it.
16 That's usually the pattern.

17 And when we resume after that, just to give
18 people some idea so you have an idea for planning your
19 own time here, we have a couple of other very small --
20 we have an individual from the Eagle Rock Chamber of
21 Commerce and an individual from the Stonewall Democratic
22 Club, and then we will go on to the ones who registered
23 just this morning.

24 And just to give you a little bit of an idea of
25 what's coming up, it will be Mr. Humphrey, Faramarz

1 Nabari, Carlos Vaquerano, and Dr. Dakterm. I'm sorry if
2 I'm having a terrible -- oh, no. It must be Dr. Dale
3 Tatum. Excuse me. And Arturo P. Garcia and then Jane
4 Scott. That's the additional names so people have an
5 idea for planning purposes. We'll first do the
6 Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Redistricting
7 next.

8 And for those who are having to wait a little
9 bit, I would note that within a block or so of this
10 building, there are a number of locations if you have to
11 kill a little bit of time. I believe Grand Central
12 Market is right there between Third and Fourth. There's
13 tons of places to go eat if there's anybody that's
14 feeling hungry. I just want to alert you to that. And
15 you could also kill a few minutes at Third and Broadway
16 and visit the Bradbury Building and see one of the most
17 beautiful buildings in the world.

18 With that, I'll introduce our Coalition of
19 Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting.

20 MS. SRIDHARAN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and
21 members of the committee. Thank you again for holding
22 these regional public hearings and bringing the roadshow
23 to Los Angeles today.

24 My name is Priya Sridharan, and I'm an attorney
25 and a statewide redistricting coordinator for the Asian

1 Pacific American Legal Center here in Los Angeles. And
2 as you know, or as many of you know, our organization,
3 the legal center, has been working with Asian and
4 Pacific Islander American communities throughout
5 California to facilitate their full participation and
6 input in the statewide redistricting process.

7 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: A little slower, please.

8 MS. SRIDHARAN: Sure.

9 At the legal center our redistricting work is
10 shaped by two principles: Number one, the Voting Rights
11 Act of 1965 requires legislatures to redistrict in such
12 a manner that does not dilute minority vote populations;
13 and, number two, the legislature can and should balance
14 many factors such as the one person/one vote mandate,
15 race and the Voting Rights Act, communities of interest,
16 party registration, compactness, contiguity, and
17 incumbency in developing a redistricting plan.

18 In order to further these principles, we work
19 with a broad cross-section of Asian and Pacific Islander
20 American communities. To ensure their participation, we
21 have created a statewide network known as the Coalition
22 of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting, or
23 CAPAFR.

24 CAPAFR consists of API coalitions in nine
25 regions throughout California which grew out of the

1 network of community-based organizations who --

2 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: I'm sorry, Miss, but we're

3 still just a little bit too fast there.

4 MS. SRIDHARAN: Okay. Sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: That's quite all right.

6 We're not going to cut you off. Just take your time,

7 and go slow.

8 MS. SRIDHARAN: No problem.

9 As I was saying, CAPAFR consists of the

10 coalitions that grew out of the network of

11 community-based organizations who actively participated

12 throughout California in Outreach for Census 2000.

13 In addition to being concerned about the voting

14 rights of the Asian Pacific Islander American community,

15 we are also very concerned about the voting rights and

16 the potential disenfranchisement or political

17 marginalizations for other communities as well. And to

18 this end, in addition to our own coalition, we have been

19 collaborating with many counterpart civil rights

20 organizations such as The Mexican American Legal Defense

21 and Education Fund, The NAACP Legal Defense and

22 Education Fund, The African American Community Advisory

23 Community on Redistricting, The Southwest Voter

24 Registration Education Project, and the American Jewish

25 community and others.

1 Concurrently, CAPAFR has developed priorities
2 and goals by looking at and discussing the broadest
3 range of factors and demographic data to inform the
4 legislature's creation of plans that are both legal and
5 viable.

6 To that end, CAPAFR has determined its priority
7 through the course of several meetings in the past year.
8 Specifically, the CAPAFR groups in Los Angeles County
9 have examined maps of current assembly district lines;
10 cities, places and other political boundaries; party
11 registration data; land use and development patterns;
12 minority population data; and demographic data such as
13 income, age, immigration and more and also considered
14 Population 5 and appearance of possible districts.

15 This complex analysis has informed our ideas
16 and our priorities and helped us to determine where APIA
17 communities and communities of interest that exist in
18 Los Angeles County based on demographic data.

19 In addition, we have developed an understanding
20 of Los Angeles County's communities of interest by
21 asking our occupants time and again what issues and
22 interests dominate in this region. By doing so, we
23 identify what major issues exist which have a bearing on
24 the policy-making role of the California legislature and
25 other legislative bodies. This enables us to determine

1 the locations of communities who share interests with
2 respect to these issues and as a result might want to be
3 included in the same legislative district to be able to
4 elect a representative and fully and effectively
5 advocate to ensure responsiveness and accountability to
6 those interests with respect to those issues.

7 And today you will hear testimony from some of
8 CAPAFR's Los Angeles County participants who have
9 participated in this process from the past year.
10 Specifically, you will hear from representatives of
11 metropolitan Los Angeles's Chinatown, Koreatown, Little
12 Tokyo, and Filipinotown, as well as representatives from
13 the San Gabriel Valley. Finally, you will hear from our
14 research coordinator, Dan Ichinose, who will share with
15 you an overview of the APIA population in Los Angeles
16 County and insight into the demographics of San Gabriel
17 Valley.

18 While the community leaders testifying today
19 will not present actual proposals for assembly
20 districts, they can share with you a great wealth of
21 knowledge about not only the APIA communities of Los
22 Angeles County but the issues and communities of
23 interest in Los Angeles as well. Finally, they will
24 identify for you some of the priorities that CAPAFR has
25 identified in this region to ensure the full and fair

1 franchise for our communities.

2 And first will you hear from Diane Poon on

3 behalf of the Chinatown Service Center and CAPAFR.

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

5 And I know it's real hard sometimes to

6 deliberately slow down your pace. I've had the same

7 problem myself. Let me explain. I'm just using these

8 court reporters as an excuse. The truth is, you know,

9 we're elected officials. We're kind of slow. We can't

10 listen that fast. If you can just go a little slower

11 for us, we'd appreciate it. Thank you.

12 MS. POON: Thank you. Good afternoon. I do

13 have copies of my testimony so that even if I read very

14 fast, you can just read my written one.

15 Good afternoon. My name is Diane Poon,

16 D-i-a-n-e, P-, as in Peter, o-o-n. I'm a member of the

17 Coalition for Asian Pacific Americans for Fair

18 Redistricting in Metropolitan Los Angeles. I'm the

19 executive director of Chinatown Service Center, a board

20 member of L.A. Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the

21 executive officer of L.A. Chinatown Business Improvement

22 District. I have worked in Chinatown area for over

23 15 years, and I grew up in Chinatown.

24 Chinatown basically is defined as shown on the

25 map, which is attached on the very last page, Cesar

1 Chavez on the south, Beaudry Avenue on the west, Alameda
2 Street on the east, and Elysian Park up to the Lincoln
3 Heights Bridge on the north. Chinatown has been the
4 primary enclave for Chinese immigrants and others, the
5 vast majority of whom do not speak English. At this
6 time, many Cambodians, Vietnamese, and Hispanic
7 immigrants are also living in Chinatown.

8 Chinatown is a community, a community
9 surrounded by residential properties with businesses,
10 one school, one medical center, churches, a library, and
11 human services sectors in the middle of the community.
12 The family associations and the churches in the
13 community serve as the important meeting and healing
14 places for the nearby residents as well as for the
15 Chinese who have moved on to the other "Chinatown" in
16 the San Gabriel Valley. It has its unique language
17 needs and cultural values. It is the place children
18 learn, adults work, and seniors play.

19 It will lose its value and add complication if
20 it is not one. It is easier for people in Chinatown to
21 go to one representative and express their concerns, and
22 it is less complex to have one assembly member to learn
23 the uniqueness of Chinatown than to teach two. Look
24 what happens to China and Taiwan, and you thought they
25 were all Chinese. L.A. Chinatown is a melting pot of

1 Chinese from all parts of the world, from China, Taiwan,
2 Vietnam, Hong Kong, South America, and so forth and so
3 on, and then you get the first generation versus the
4 second generation. So you can imagine the magnitude of
5 the complication.

6 L.A. Chinatown has just formed its Business
7 Improvement District. It took many hours of many
8 volunteers to accomplish this. To get 56 percent of the
9 property owners to agree on one thing is a miracle, and
10 we did it. It is extremely important for the business
11 sector to be united as one and focus on revitalization.
12 There are many positive things happening in Chinatown:
13 the Blue Line, the cornfield, the BID, the artist
14 corridor, maybe even a cultural center. So please keep
15 the community in one district so that we can overcome
16 obstacles as one group/one district and claim victory as
17 one group/one district. At this time Chinatown is cut
18 into at least two districts which seems to be not as
19 efficient.

20 It is just as important to keep each Asian
21 Pacific Islander community in one since every one group
22 has its uniqueness and its special needs. We are very
23 diverse within ourselves. We don't need to have two
24 assembly districts to add more complication to it.

25 I urge you to consider to keep each API

1 community one district. Thank you for your time.

2 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. And
3 go ahead with the next.

4 MS. MAQUINDANG: Gentlemen, good afternoon.
5 Thank you very much for giving the Filipino American
6 community the opportunity to speak in this very
7 important meeting.

8 My name is Susan Espiritu-Maquindang --
9 S-u-s-a-n, E-s-p-i-r-i-t-u, M-a-q-u-i-n-d-a-n-g -- and I
10 am a member of the Coalition for Asian Pacific Americans
11 for Fair Redistricting in Metropolitan Los Angeles. I
12 am the executive director for the Filipino American
13 Service Group, Incorporated -- actually, I have a copy
14 of our testimony here -- FASGI, since 1994.

15 FASGI is a nonprofit community-based social
16 service agency that provides social services to
17 low-income and homeless individuals with the language
18 and cultural capacity to serve the Asian Pacific
19 Islanders in the Los Angeles County, particularly the
20 older adult population.

21 FASGI originally began in 1981 as a food pantry
22 in the Temple-Beaudry area, funded by the Department of
23 Aging Food Nutrition Program. But now with the funding
24 from the federal, state, city, county, as well as
25 private and in-kind donations, FASGI has a transitional

1 housing and homeless shelter for the homeless
2 individuals, in particularly, the older adults.

3 In addition FASGI provides services such as
4 case management, food distribution, client advocacy,
5 information and referral services, assisting clients in
6 enrolling in job training, adult education courses,
7 organizing events on special occasions, and provides
8 education and outreach services.

9 I am the founding chair of the Filipino
10 American Voters Involvement Project and nonpartisan
11 voter involvement project which started in Southern
12 California in 1996 and now has its chapters nationwide.
13 I am also a member of the Community Advisory Board of
14 the Queen of Angels Hospital located in the
15 Filipinotown. In fact, this is where my twin boys were
16 born 26 years ago.

17 May I introduce Peping Baclig and Lalee Vicedo.

18 MR. LEONARD: Yes. Thank you.

19 MR. BACLIG: I am Faustino Peping Baclig,
20 F-a-u-s-t-i-n-o, capital P-e-p-i-n-g. Baclig is capital
21 B-a-c-l-i-g. I am also a member of the Coalition of
22 Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting in
23 Metropolitan Los Angeles.

24 I have been a member of the board of directors
25 of the People's COER, the Community Organizations for

1 Empowerment and Reform and for the last -- 15 years ago
2 I organized the Golden Agers of Los Angeles -- we call
3 "GALA" -- which is a nonprofit civic organization of
4 seniors, Filipino seniors, living in Los Angeles.

5 In the following year, I organized the Cahugao
6 Seniors, Incorporated, and served as its president for
7 ten years and am still the chairman of its board of
8 trustees. When the community -- Alyanza ng Komunidad
9 was organized in 1993 by the East West Community
10 Partnership, I was elected its second vice president
11 and three years later became its chairman until the
12 present.

13 Since 1995 I've served as the regional director
14 for the Southwest Region of the American Coalition for
15 Filipino Veterans, and I have been the vice chair of the
16 Filipino Americans of Los Angeles -- we call "PALAD" --
17 from 1996 through 1999. I was appointed commissioner by
18 the Honorable Gloria Molina to the Adult Day Healthcare
19 Planning Council from 1992 to 2000.

20 On May 20, 2001, I was recognized as Man of the
21 Year of Assembly District 46, and I was also a delegate
22 to the first convention of the International League of
23 People's Struggle in Amsterdam, Netherlands this year.

24 MR. LEONARD: Thank you.

25 Next.

1 MS. VICEDO: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 MR. LEONARD: Pull it real close.

3 MS. VICEDO: Okay. My name is Lalee Vicedo,
4 L-a-l-e-e, Vicedo, V-i-c-e-d-o. And I'm also a member
5 of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair
6 Redistricting in Metropolitan Los Angeles.

7 I am the Resource Development Manager at Search
8 to Involve Filipino Americans, SIPA. I have only been
9 in this position for the past year, but I have worked
10 with and for the people of Filipinotown for the past ten
11 years as a volunteer, community organizer, and
12 counselor.

13 While attending Los Angeles High School in the
14 Crenshaw area, my friends and I would trek down to
15 Filipinotown, specifically at SIPA, to learn about
16 traditional Filipino dances and about our history, to
17 volunteer in our community, and to buy dessert at the
18 local Filipino restaurant.

19 Search to Involve Filipino Americans, SIPA, is
20 a community-based organization that serves the Filipino
21 American youth and their families. Since 1972 SIPA has
22 provided services to assist and to empower young people.
23 As a young person, SIPA has provided me with an
24 opportunity to explore and learn about my culture, and
25 through SIPA I discovered my passion for public service.

1 I am a community organizer, a health educator, and a
2 counselor for various community organizations, but most
3 of all, I'm an activist in the Filipino American
4 community, and I have made my home in the Filipinotown
5 area.

6 MS. MAQUINDANG: On behalf of representatives
7 assembled here in the Filipino American community, we
8 would like to state our support for the broader
9 principles that have been articulated by the other
10 members of CAPAFR throughout the state. We urge you to
11 enforce the Voting Rights Act. Our testimony today will
12 outline where our community is, why we think it is very
13 important to hold it intact within a single assembly
14 district and what our community's redistricting
15 priorities are.

16 The Filipinotown communities has two
17 priorities:

18 Number one, recognize and respect the core of
19 Filipinotown when drawing the assembly lines so that
20 this important historic, social, cultural, and economic
21 center is held intact;

22 Number two, recognize that our community also
23 has large populations in the Hollywood and North
24 Hollywood areas, and, if possible, take these areas into
25 consideration.

1 Mr. Baclig will speak further on the first
2 priority.

3 MR. BACLIG: The Filipinotown is an area that
4 has been the heart of the Filipino American community
5 for many generations. It centers in an area known as
6 the Temple/Beverly corridor. And Filipinotown is
7 bounded by 110 Freeway, Beaudry Avenue on the east,
8 Vermont and Hoover Street to the west, Sunset Boulevard
9 to the north, and Third Street to the south.

10 The area supports a wide area of Filipino
11 American social service organizations serving the youth,
12 the students, business, families, veterans, and some
13 senior population. It has become a nexus for thousands
14 of lives seeking to enrich and empower themselves around
15 the vibrant nature of Filipino history, culture, and
16 social gatherings. Most importantly, the area has
17 historical and political significance as a focal point
18 in organizing efforts to unite and strengthen the
19 connections between all Filipinos living in the United
20 States, especially over concerns dealing with justice
21 for Filipino veterans, healthcare workers, hate crimes,
22 youth and student leadership, and senior support
23 services and care.

24 For instance, People's COER operates in the
25 area closest to downtown L.A. and holds many seminars,

1 conferences and demonstrations, rallies at the INS
2 building, the City Hall, and the State Building on
3 Spring Street.

4 In the western part of the Filipinotown, Search
5 to Involve Filipino Americans, SIPA for short, operates
6 in the Temple and Robinson area. SIPA's facility also
7 houses the Filipino American Library, the Fil-Am Arts,
8 an organization which organizes the annual Festival for
9 Philippine Arts and Culture. SIPA's facility is also
10 often used for community meetings, forums, and
11 performance arts showcases.

12 Robinson Street is also dotted with Filipino
13 American residents and is where the Temple Community
14 Hospital is located. Here hundreds of Filipinos come
15 for treatment. Most of the staff of the hospitals are
16 Filipinos. Nearby is a middle high school where SIPA
17 draws its youth clientele.

18 Right in the center of the area is FASGI, whose
19 target population are the seniors and veterans who live
20 and own their houses along Alvarado, Lake, Roselake,
21 Rosemont, Parkview, Corondelet, Rampart, Coronado, and
22 Fairview Streets. Rosemont Elementary School is right
23 in this area.

24 Near Sunset and Alvarado is Post Office
25 No. 90026, and farther south is Saint Vincent Hospital,

1 where hundreds of Filipinos come for treatment or work
2 every hour of the day. Nearby is the famous Belmont
3 High School, and it is Belmont High School where many of
4 our Filipino youth attend.

5 Union Street provides the spiritual life of the
6 people. Here we have the Catholic churches of Our Lady
7 of Loretto, the Saint Columban, and Precious Blood
8 Church. Nearby are the Iglesias Ni Cristo and the
9 Filipino Christian Church, which are truly historic
10 Filipino entities. Dotting the area are several
11 Christian agencies on Parkview Street, Rampart Street,
12 and in the Dream Center of the old Queen of Angels
13 Hospital Building.

14 As a community, FACLA, or the Filipino American
15 Community of Los Angeles, which is located at Union and
16 Temple, provides the social life of the community.
17 Dances, programs, and conferences are held here every
18 day. It is situated near the L.A. Medical Center and
19 the different churches along Union Boulevard.

20 Even though Temple Street runs through the
21 heart of our community, it is also the dividing line for
22 two assembly districts. Some portions north of Temple
23 belong to Assembly District 45, and some portions south
24 of Temple Street belong to Assembly District 46. Yet
25 the community-based agencies and associations operate

1 and serve the whole community, north and south of
2 Temple Street. Many people are confused about whom
3 should they ask for assistance. This assembly line
4 divides our community politically so that we can never
5 speak in one direct voice to a single politician.

6 Just like in my case, my picture was used by
7 Jackie Goldberg in her campaign for assembly district,
8 and yet most recently I was recognized as the Man of the
9 Year of District 46, to which district shall I belong.
10 Those are an honor, and so I give my thanks.

11 The Filipinos here in the United States have
12 been struggling for so long to have a town which we can
13 call our own. We have always dreamed of a town that
14 would really be identified with us, the Filipinos. It
15 is our hope that we will somehow achieve that dream, one
16 that will never be fulfilled if the assembly lines stay
17 as they are now.

18 I am a Filipino World War II Veteran. I fought
19 in Bataan, survived the Death March, survived 11 months
20 in the concentration camp, and worked as an officer for
21 the last three years. My years are numbered. I may not
22 live to see one single Filipinotown. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you, sir.

24 MS. MAQUINDANG: Ms. Vicedo will now speak
25 about the second priority, recognizing additional areas

1 with large population of Filipino American.

2 MS. VICEDO: Though the boundaries of

3 Filipinotown are quite small, the Filipino American

4 population in the surrounding area is quite large.

5 There is a large number of Filipino American population

6 as close as the Hollywood and Koreatown area and as far

7 as areas like Eagle Rock and North Hollywood.

8 It is important to understand the importance of

9 Filipinotown as the meeting point and as the heart of

10 the Filipino American community. As mentioned earlier,

11 there are not only community-based organizations but

12 also churches, social groups, and businesses. It also

13 serves as a gateway for many Filipino immigrants.

14 Filipinotown is oftentimes the place where these

15 immigrants find their roots.

16 After reaching economic stability, most

17 Filipino immigrants move out of Filipinotown, but they

18 continue to return for church and for social activities

19 as well as to patronize familiar Filipino markets.

20 Because of the tendency for Filipino Americans who have

21 settled in the areas outside of the historical

22 boundaries of Filipinotown to return to Filipinotown

23 regularly and habitually for their cultural, religious,

24 and social livelihood, we urge the committee to take

25 into consideration these other areas that lie outside of

1 the historic Filipinotown boundaries.

2 MS. MAQUINDANG: The Filipino community is now
3 asking for a fair play. The current assembly lines cut
4 the Filipino community and the Filipinotown area into
5 several districts, Assembly Districts 45 and 46. The
6 Filipino American community must be held intact.

7 If the ideal of one person/one vote is actually
8 supposed to be something, our community needs to be kept
9 whole and solid. Respect our communities and the
10 communities of interest that exist in this region, and
11 do not split them into multiple districts. Please allow
12 the input of the Asian American Islander, American
13 Latino, and African American communities to be
14 meaningful by truly considering us when you draw the
15 redistricting line.

16 Gentlemen, thank you. Mr. Chairman, thank you
17 very much for coming to Los Angeles and hearing our
18 testimony.

19 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. We
20 appreciate your taking the time to be here today.

21 And do we have more on the panel? That's the
22 full panel? There's more. Okay.

23 MS. CHOI: Good afternoon. On behalf of the
24 Korean American community, I would like to thank the
25 members of the committee for giving us to chance to

1 speak on behalf of our community.

2 My name is Cathy Choi. That's C-a-t-h-y. Last
3 name is C-h-o-i. And I am a member of the coalition for
4 Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting in
5 Metropolitan Los Angeles. For the past ten years, I
6 have been involved in various aspects of community
7 organizing in Los Angeles as a student at UCLA, a
8 staffer for different political offices, a volunteer for
9 community organizations such as the Korean Youth &
10 Community Center, and was recently a resident of the
11 Koreatown area.

12 I am currently working as the external affairs
13 director for the Korean American Coalition. KAC is a
14 national nonprofit, nonpartisan community advocacy
15 organization headquartered in Los Angeles with chapters
16 throughout the United States. Established in 1983,
17 KAC's mission is to facilitate the Korean America
18 community's participation in civic, legislative, and
19 community affairs.

20 KAC offers services to assist with the U.S.
21 citizenship process as well as operating a 4.29 Dispute
22 Resolution Center which provides resources to handling
23 civil issues. Koreatown is a focal point for the rest
24 of the Korean American communities throughout the
25 nation. Many times our chapters look to us for guidance

1 as a model as they try to establish themselves
2 politically, socially, and economically.

3 MR. SIM: Hello. My name is Inbo Sim. I'm the
4 executive director of Korean Resource Center. Our
5 family first moving to Koreatown 22 years ago, and I
6 have been working at the Korean Resource Center for the
7 last 17 years, and I have lived in Koreatown for the
8 last 17 years.

9 The Korean Resource Center has served Koreatown
10 area since 1983. For 18 years we have provided wide
11 range of education, advocacy, and social service for
12 Korean American immigrant communities. KRC operates a
13 low-income tax clinic to assist limited
14 English-proficient taxpayers and a government benefit
15 clinic that provides application assistance on programs
16 like CAPI, Health Family, and MediCal.

17 We offer immigrant-related service, teach
18 English and hold computer classes and even offer voter
19 assistance education from local to federal election. As
20 an affiliate of National Korean American Service and
21 Education Consortium, KRC has also done a significant
22 outreach and education work on bilingual service and
23 hate crimes.

24 We are both here today to urge you to unite
25 Koreatown into one assembly district. We agree that

1 Voting Rights Act should be enforced to avoid minority
2 vote dilution and respectfully request that you keep our
3 community intact and don't divide them up.

4 We believe Koreatown is just a community that
5 is cohesive and should be kept together in one district
6 but that is currently divided into multiple districts.
7 Because of this, residents of cohesive Koreatown
8 community face unnecessary obstacles to advocate for
9 their needs in state policy making.

10 Koreatown, a major gateway for recent
11 immigrants, has grown proportionally over the years to
12 accommodate the growing number of Koreans. It
13 originally centered around the several main boulevards.
14 In 1970 the City of Los Angeles posted the first
15 official sign designating Koreatown. Now roughly
16 defined, it is an area bound by Hancock Park,
17 Pico-Union, Hollywood, and South Central.

18 For the last three decades, Koreatown has
19 become increasingly visible with an influx of business
20 and residents. Numerous shopping centers and clusters
21 of Korean businesses are appearing in the areas where
22 there has not been a significant Korean presence.

23 Through our community work, we realize
24 low-income, limited English-speaking Korean American
25 community is often discriminated against and

1 marginalized because of linguistic and cultural
2 barriers. Koreatown is an integral residential center
3 that eases the adjustment to life in the United States.
4 Here low-income immigrants can find culturally relevant
5 educational service and a community-based organization
6 that offers assistance.

7 Although Korean American comprises a large part
8 of Koreatown, the area also encompasses a significant
9 population of Central Americans, Filipinos, and Thai
10 people. All these communities share similar interests
11 in immigrant-related issues and benefits for low-income
12 people. These issues include legalization, healthcare
13 access, language access and education, affordable
14 housing, job training, and state-run public benefits for
15 immigrants such as CAPI and CFAP. As Koreatown is
16 currently divided into several districts, this dilutes
17 the political potential of these immigrant communities.

18 MS. CHOI: I and KAC join Inbo Sim and the
19 Korean Resource Center in respectfully requesting that
20 you unite Koreatown area into one assembly district. We
21 also agree that Koreatown is roughly bounded by Hancock
22 Park, Pico-Union, Hollywood, and South Central.

23 Koreatown is major commercial center not only
24 for Korean Americans but many people in this midtown
25 area. It developed in part because of the financial and

1 social investment of many Korean Americans and now is a
2 central place for Korean Americans who need services.

3 For example, there are many Korean groceries
4 here that Korean residents of Koreatown, as well as
5 other parts of Los Angeles, rely on for their shopping
6 needs. Additionally, there are many small and mid-sized
7 Korea-owned businesses located in Koreatown such as
8 import-export businesses that specialize in importing
9 goods from Korea, Asia, and Mexico.

10 In addition we also agree with the earlier
11 statement that there is a growing Korean residential
12 population in the Koreatown area.

13 Recently KAC has been designated as a Census
14 Information Center by the U.S. Census Bureau, and
15 through this center, KAC has examined a breakdown of the
16 demographics of Koreatown as well as the neighboring
17 communities. We found that there has been a significant
18 increase in Koreans who reside within the Koreatown
19 area. In addition, this finding goes against the
20 assumption that Korean Americans only own businesses in
21 Koreatown and do not make up its resident constituency.

22 For the above reasons, we request that you
23 recognize that Koreatown is one cohesive, distinct
24 community that should be held intact in one assembly
25 district. Currently, Koreatown is split into multiple

1 assembly districts, and this sometimes results in the
2 political marginalization of our residents or interferes
3 with their ability to advocate for policy issues that
4 the state legislature confronts. In fact, we have
5 residents of Koreatown come into our office confused
6 about who their legislator is because of the division of
7 Koreatown.

8 We both thank the committee for conducting
9 these hearings and urge you to consider our input as you
10 proceed with the redistricting process. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

12 Next.

13 MS. HAGIHARA: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Ayako Hagihara, A-y-a-k-o, H-a-g-i-h-a-r-a. I do have
15 copies of my statement.

16 Once again, my name is Ayako Hagihara, and I am
17 a member of the Coalition for Asian Pacific Americans
18 for Fair Redistricting in Metropolitan Los Angeles.

19 I am a community organizer and controller at
20 the LTSC Community Development Corporation, an economic
21 development affiliate of the Little Tokyo Service
22 Center, LTSC, Inc. My primary responsibility as
23 community organizer has been to work closely with over
24 1,200 residents in Little Tokyo, many of whom are
25 elderly and of low income and feel disempowered and

1 removed from local government despite having lived in
2 the area for almost 20 years. In order to increase
3 civic participation, LTSC CDC helped to form the Little
4 Tokyo Residents Association, an areawide network of
5 residents that advocates for residents' needs and
6 concerns.

7 I have been working at LTSC CDC for two and a
8 half years. Prior to that, I have volunteered with
9 various Little Tokyo and Japanese American
10 organizations. My family immigrated from Japan in 1982,
11 and although we have always lived in Alhambra, a suburb
12 of Los Angeles, I viewed Little Tokyo as a connection to
13 and a reminder of my heritage and spent many hours
14 volunteering at the Nisei Week festivals and other
15 events in Little Tokyo.

16 LTSC CDC was established in 1983 as a community
17 and economic development affiliate of the LTSC, Inc.,
18 which is a comprehensive social service agency that has
19 served the Southern California Japanese American
20 community for 22 years.

21 LTSC CDC's mission statement is to plan,
22 promote, and support community development activities
23 which preserve the Japanese American and multiethnic
24 culture and history of Little Tokyo and to contribute to
25 its physical, social, cultural, and economic

1 revitalization; to serve as a resource for similar
2 community economic development efforts in other
3 low-income communities, particularly Asian and Pacific
4 Islander communities; and to develop, provide, and
5 maintain affordable housing and housing-related services
6 in Little Tokyo, in the Little Tokyo area, and in the
7 greater Los Angeles metropolitan area for the benefit of
8 low- and moderate-income persons.

9 LTSC CDC is also a member of the Little Tokyo
10 Community Council, a consortium of residents,
11 businesses, cultural institutions, and religious
12 organizations formed to coordinate advocacy and
13 community planning for Little Tokyo. The Little Tokyo
14 Community Council is currently discussing the
15 possibility of forming a local neighborhood council with
16 Chinatown, Olvera Street, and the Arts District.

17 In my personal life I am a board member of the
18 Japanese American Citizen Civic League's Pacific
19 Southwest District and co-chair of its Civil Rights
20 Caucus. JACL is the oldest Asian American civil rights
21 organization, and we also support CAPAFR's efforts in
22 advocating for the interests of the APIA community. And
23 you will see in the written testimony my other
24 affiliations.

25 I speak for LTSC CDC and the other

1 organizations I am affiliated with when I state my
2 support for the following principles that have been set
3 forth by other members of CAPAFR throughout the state.
4 Specifically, we urge you to enforce Voting Rights Act
5 and do not divide our communities or African American or
6 Latino communities or otherwise dilute our votes. And
7 please respect our communities and the multiple
8 communities of interest that exist in Los Angeles and do
9 not split each of them up into multiple districts. And
10 also please allow the input of the Asian and Pacific
11 Islander Americans, Latino, and African American
12 communities to be meaningful by truly considering it
13 when you redraw the district lines.

14 Little Tokyo, which includes a historic
15 district that has been recognized as a national historic
16 landmark, is bounded by Temple Street to the north,
17 Los Angeles Street to the west, Third Street to the
18 south, and Alameda Street to the east. These are the
19 boundaries that have been used by the Community
20 Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles to
21 define the Little Tokyo project area for the past 31
22 years. However, historically, Little Tokyo as a
23 community had an easterly boundary of Vignes Street.
24 Currently in that area there are two Buddhist temples,
25 one Catholic church, and a few small businesses,

1 residents, and property owners who have historically
2 identified with Little Tokyo. The CRA is currently
3 working on extending the project area to include this
4 area east of Alameda in the Little Tokyo project.

5 Little Tokyo is a 120-year-old community with a
6 rich multicultural history and was once a thriving focal
7 point for Japanese Americans throughout Southern
8 California. Currently, over 1,200 people live in Little
9 Tokyo. There are five residential complexes, including
10 four low-income and/or senior-disabled housing and one
11 condominium complex. In addition, several single
12 residential occupancy units are located above
13 storefronts.

14 Little Tokyo is also home to several
15 significant cultural and religious institutions. The
16 Japanese American National Museum is a highly acclaimed
17 museum showcasing Japanese American history and the
18 current community as well as art and children's
19 exhibits. The Japanese American Cultural and Community
20 Center houses many masters of classic Japanese art such
21 as traditional dance, flower arrangement, and doll
22 making. The cultural center also operates the Japan
23 American Theater.

24 Within the historic district, which is the only
25 national historic landmark that encompasses more than a

1 building, there is the Union Center for the Arts, site
2 of the historic Union Church, which has been restored
3 and rehabilitated to house East West Players, the oldest
4 Asian American theater company; Visual Communications,
5 the oldest Asian American media arts organization; and a
6 nonprofit gallery, LA Artcore.

7 Security and beautification are major concerns
8 for the future of Little Tokyo. The Little Tokyo
9 Community Council is working toward identifying,
10 funding, and working with local government to implement
11 streetscapes plans that would preserve and enhance the
12 historic features of Little Tokyo, establishing a
13 Business Improvement District and finding ways to
14 address the homeless situation.

15 The Little Tokyo community also recognizes a
16 need to increase the number of people in Little Tokyo
17 both by creating more housing for all family sizes and
18 income levels and developing events and facilities that
19 attract people. Toward this goal of attracting more
20 people to Little Tokyo, there is a need to develop a
21 coordinated and strategic marketing plan as well as
22 creating affordable and accessible parking.

23 I would like to thank the committee at this
24 time for holding these hearings and providing us with an
25 opportunity to describe our communities to you. I am

1 not proposing any boundaries today. I simply hope to
2 identify the Little Tokyo community and its needs and
3 concerns to you and recognize the district as a
4 neighborhood that should stay intact. Thank you very
5 much.

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

7 Mr. Nakano, do you have a question?

8 MR. NAKANO: Yes. I believe there are three
9 Buddhist temples.

10 (The remainder of the proceedings were reported
11 by Leslie A. MacNeil.)

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1 MS. HAGIHARA: Well, I was referring to the
2 area east of Alameda. So west of Alameda there are --
3 MR. NAKANO: Koyasan and Higashi.
4 MS. HAGIHARA: Yeah. And --
5 MR. NAKANO: You wouldn't call Nishi Honganji,
6 then.
7 MS. HAGIHARA: Nishi Honganji, Zenshuji are the
8 two temples. Is there -- I'm not aware of a third one.
9 MR. NAKANO: There are four, then.
10 MS. HAGIHARA: Yeah.
11 MR. NAKANO: Zenshuji, and then you have the
12 Higashi, and then you also --
13 MS. HAGIHARA: Right. But within the total
14 area of Little Tokyo there are like nine religious
15 entities.
16 MR. NAKANO: Okay.
17 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And if I can ask --
18 MR. NAKANO: But in the greater community
19 there --
20 MS. HAGIHARA: Right.
21 MR. NAKANO: -- it's much larger than --
22 MS. HAGIHARA: Than what's identified by local
23 government.
24 MR. NAKANO: And then you have the Union
25 Church, as well.

1 MS. HAGIHARA: Right.

2 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: If I might ask, if it
3 would not be too much trouble, if there's any chance you
4 could -- for our court reporter, you could just do this
5 on a piece of paper, write down the spelling of those
6 temples that you were just referring to, so they can
7 have that for the record?

8 MS. HAGIHARA: No problem.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: We'd appreciate it. Thank
10 you very much.

11 MR. HUANG: Good afternoon. My name is Albert
12 Y.M. Huang, A-l-b-e-r-t Y.M. Huang H-u-a-n-g, and I'm
13 speaking today on behalf of the Asian Pacific Americans
14 for Fair Redistricting, or APAFR of San Gabriel Valley,
15 which is a part of the statewide coalition called the
16 Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair
17 Redistricting, or CAPAFR.

18 I'm a product of San Gabriel Valley. Besides
19 currently residing in Alhambra, I was also raised in
20 Arcadia and for a while lived in El Sereno. In the past
21 17 years I have personally witnessed the impressive
22 growth of this community. Growing up in the shadow of
23 my father, who is a highly successful
24 attorney-turned-developer, I have developed early on
25 sensitivity for my surroundings. In fact, those

1 instincts have driven me to pursue a career in
2 architecture and planning. For the last seven years I
3 have helped manage and design projects in Alhambra,
4 El Monte, Norwalk, Simi Valley, Santa Monica and various
5 parts of Los Angeles. Currently I'm working on projects
6 in San Gabriel, Pacific Palisades, Sherman Oaks,
7 Brentwood and Malibu. In addition to architecture, I'm
8 also the developer/manager for the Chinese Heritage and
9 Multi-cultural Center for the San Fernando Valley
10 Chinese Cultural Association.

11 In the community, I serve as a youth director
12 of LA 80-20, otherwise known as the 80-20 Initiative.
13 The 80-20 Initiative is a national, nonpartisan
14 political action committee founded primarily by Asian
15 and Pacific Islander Americans, dedicated to work for
16 equality and justice for all Americans. Our mission is
17 to focus on political empowerment and civil rights, to
18 build a political voice in unison to win equal
19 opportunity and political parity, and to work together
20 on mutual interests and issues that affect our rights as
21 American citizens.

22 As a representative from LA 80-20, I'm proud to
23 be a member of the steering committee of
24 APAFR-San Gabriel Valley. Our diverse coalition of
25 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans consists of both

1 Republicans and Democrats, city planners, small business
2 owners and various professionals. Our diverse
3 coalition --

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Sir, just a little bit
5 slower.

6 MR. HUANG: I'm sorry.

7 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: That's quite all right.

8 MR. HUANG: To best ensure that the new
9 assembly district lines represent our community and best
10 allow our communities with shared interests to elect
11 representative who will be responsive to these common
12 interests and needs, we want to share our concerns about
13 the assembly district lines.

14 With the assistance of Asian Pacific American
15 Legal Center throughout 2000 and 2001, APAFR-San Gabriel
16 Valley has learned about redistricting legal principles,
17 demographic changes, and the new technology. We looked
18 at the data provided by APALC on many different factors,
19 such as population changes, party and political
20 interests, sociodemographic data such as age, education,
21 immigrant history, income and race, and important
22 geographic markers such as freeways, school district
23 boundaries and parks. This prompted many long nights of
24 discussions about the current configuration of
25 districts, especially in the San Gabriel Valley, and how

1 they could better represent many communities in the
2 area.

3 After many months of studies and discussions,
4 APAFR-San Gabriel Valley has identified two priorities
5 important to protecting our community interests and
6 ability to have a meaningful vote: There should be a
7 single district at both,) hold the four cities of
8 Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and San Gabriel
9 together and 2) is squarely -- and is placed squarely in
10 the San Gabriel Valley and fully represent our unique
11 interests.

12 First and foremost, we urge you to consider
13 drawing a 49th Assembly District that holds the four
14 City of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and
15 San Gabriel together. This is an area with a large
16 population of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans,
17 APIAs, that share a common history, draw on the same
18 resources, and have built a strong infrastructure to
19 support their community needs. Historically, Monterey
20 Park was one of the first cities to affirmatively outlaw
21 restrictive covenants barring sale of property to
22 non-whites. Presently, it serves as the gateway for
23 many APIA communities. Moreover, the region has
24 witnessed a tremendous growth of Chinese American
25 community.

1 To give you an example of how firmly rooted the
2 APIA and Chinese American community has become with
3 these four cities and the San Gabriel Valley, one can
4 look at the location of almost all the major Chinese
5 American media sources --

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Just a slower again so --

7 MR. HUANG: I'm sorry.

8 -- in this area.

9 I generally talk pretty fast. I'm sorry.

10 These media sources developed in response to
11 the community's need for media services tailored to the
12 Chinese American community and, more specifically, the
13 three main immigrant communities of mainland China,
14 Taiwan and Hong Kong, in terms of both content and
15 language.

16 By way of example, the two largest Chinese
17 language newspapers with a worldwide circulation, World
18 Journal and Sing Tao Newspapers, both have their
19 Southern California offices based in San Gabriel Valley,
20 Monterey Park and Alhambra respectively. World
21 Journal's circulation in Los Angeles has approximately
22 150,000 to 200,000 readers and is the largest Chinese
23 language newspaper circulation in Southern California.
24 It's readership is comprised largely of first generation
25 Chinese Americans. In fact, I myself would flip through

1 the pages of World Journal to get my dosage of local
2 news. With offices throughout the world, the World
3 Journal chose to locate its Southern California regional
4 offices in Monterey Park 20 years ago because of a large
5 readership concentrated in Monterey Park and the
6 proximity to the reportage areas.

7 Similarly, most other major Chinese language
8 media are based in the San Gabriel Valley: The Chinese
9 Press in Alhambra, International Daily News in Monterey
10 Park, Worldwide Liberty Times in Alhambra, Xin Min
11 Evening News in Alhambra, Chinese L.A. Daily News in
12 El Monte, Zhong Guo News in El Monte and radio station
13 AM 1430 in El Monte.

14 The ethnic media market of San Gabriel Valley
15 reflects a commonality and cohesiveness of communities
16 included in the proposed 49th Assembly District.
17 Moreover, the proprietors of this ethnic media may also
18 have common interests around which they form a
19 community.

20 Not unlike the development of Chinese media in
21 San Gabriel Valley, the proliferation of Asian banks
22 coincides with the development of San Gabriel Valley as
23 a center for the Asian American population of
24 Los Angeles. As a result, many Chinese-owned banks
25 moved from Chinatown to San Gabriel Valley, and

1 specifically Monterey Park, in the past few decades.
2 The proliferation of Asian banks, as well as a very
3 large number and visible presence of Asian
4 American-owned small businesses in San Gabriel Valley
5 suggests, of course, that there was a growing and rooted
6 community there for these banks to serve.

7 The four cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park,
8 Rosemead and San Gabriel all share mixed zoning --

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Little slower.

10 MR. HUANG: -- that combines single-family
11 residential housing with multifamily housing, commercial
12 and light industrial zoning. Specifically, the cities
13 tend to consist primary of single-family residential
14 uses, with significant but isolated pockets of
15 multiple-family residential uses. The cities also have
16 varying amounts of land zoned for commercial uses and
17 some manufacturing or light industrial uses.

18 The majority of Monterey Park is zoned for
19 residential uses, with large swaths of single-family
20 residential use. Higher density residential areas
21 exist, but are limited largely to the perimeter of the
22 city, and to the northeast quadrant of the city. Not
23 surprisingly, areas zoned for higher residential use are
24 clustered around spaces zoned for commercial uses, and
25 in particular commercial service uses.

1 As with the other three cities -- Alhambra,
2 Rosemead and San Gabriel -- that we are asking to be
3 held together, there is a large, linear corridor of
4 commercial space running along Garvey Avenue, which is a
5 major artery in Monterey Park. There are also a handful
6 of swaths of land dedicated to manufacturing uses in the
7 most eastern part of the city, abutting East
8 Los Angeles.

9 Similarly, Alhambra consists largely of
10 residential land, primarily single-family, but with
11 slightly more land dedicated to high-density residential
12 uses than Monterey Park. The high-density residential
13 uses are primarily in the center and northern part of
14 the Alhambra, and are also considered clustered around a
15 linear corridor dedicated to commercial use such as Main
16 Street and Valley Boulevard. The development of the
17 business corridor of shopping plazas along Valley
18 Boulevard in Alhambra, extending down to San Gabriel and
19 Rosemead, has been known for years as the most critical
20 artery of Chinese American stores and businesses.

21 Like the other cities, San Gabriel is zoned
22 primarily for residential uses with most of the city
23 zoned for single-family residential uses. The city also
24 has higher-density residential spaces clustered around
25 commercial space. San Gabriel seems to have a similar

1 amount of space dedicated to high-density residential
2 uses as Alhambra.

3 The City of Rosemead also consists primarily of
4 residential land uses, although the balance here tilts
5 more toward high-density residential uses as opposed to
6 single-family residential uses. The city includes some
7 commercial uses and some minimal manufacturing uses, but
8 they are less clustered and more dispersed throughout
9 the city than the other core cities. Still, the primary
10 character of the city is residential, with a mix of
11 single and family multi- -- single and multifamily
12 residences, like the other core cities.

13 The consistent land use patterns in these
14 cities reflect the common residential character of these
15 cities. These common character may be the genesis of
16 many communities of interest, as well as a source of
17 differentiation from neighboring areas, some of which
18 are more industrial, or other land use patterns.

19 The four cities also share the issue of
20 higher-density of senior citizens within our
21 communities. It makes sense to have one assembly member
22 or state senator to speak to.

23 In summary, we urge you to respect the
24 integrity of the communities of Alhambra, Monterey Park,
25 Rosemead and San Gabriel, keeping them whole and united

1 in one single assembly district.

2 APAFR-San Gabriel Valley's primary concern is
3 to preserve the shared interest of our communities and
4 to protect them from being divided into multiple
5 districts. We hope that you will seriously consider
6 this input to determine what our communities and
7 San Gabriel Valley's communities of interest are and
8 whether to keep them whole.

9 We also urge you to consider our input and the
10 input of other Latino and African American communities
11 to gather the information you need to enforce the Voting
12 Rights Act. We're grateful to the committee and the
13 legislature for conducting these hearings and providing
14 the residents of the San Gabriel Valley with this
15 invaluable opportunity to share our knowledge with you.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir.

18 And I believe Mr. Ono.

19 MR. ONO: Mr. Chair, honorable members of the
20 assembly. My name is Thomas Ono, O-n-o. First name
21 Thomas, T-h-o-m-a-s last name Ono, O-n-o. I am speaking
22 today on behalf of the Asian Pacific Americans for
23 Redistricting of San Gabriel Valley, which is one of the
24 nine local chapters of the statewide Coalition for Asian
25 Pacific Americans for Redistricting. I am one of the

1 three co-chairs.

2 I begin by sharing my background, for I believe
3 it will help you understand the roots of my concerns.
4 After the Second World War, my parents were released
5 from the internment camps and returned with nothing to
6 Los Angeles, which remained largely segregated in its
7 housing and employment. In 1948 I was born at the
8 Japanese Hospital, Los Angeles, which was started in the
9 1920s because patients of Japanese ancestry were not
10 accepted at other hospitals. My first residence was in
11 a segregated neighborhood near Little Tokyo in the
12 present skid row area of Los Angeles. My father, an
13 immigrant from Japan, worked as a fry cook and my
14 mother, a U.S. citizen, was a garment worker. When I
15 was 12, my family moved to the Boyle Heights area of
16 East Los Angeles. And that's where I developed my
17 respect for Chicano culture and my love for Mexican
18 food.

19 With the help of their children, my parents
20 moved to Monterey Park in 1974. My wife and I have
21 lived in Monterey Park since 1977. Our three children
22 have been raised in Monterey Park and have attended the
23 local public schools. I received my undergraduate and
24 law degrees in Los Angeles, and have been a practicing
25 attorney in private practice since 1975.

1 In the past, I have served on the steering
2 committee of the Japanese Welfare Rights Organization,
3 which was organized by Japanese senior citizens to fight
4 the denial of social security benefits for failure to
5 produce their INS green cards, which were seized by the
6 U.S. government in the internment camps and never
7 returned to them. I served as counsel for the Little
8 Tokyo Peoples' Rights Organization, which was formed to
9 fight the evictions of 273 senior citizens by the
10 Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency. I have served eight
11 years on the Monterey Park Planning Commission and two
12 terms as its chairman. I also chaired the Monterey Park
13 Community Advisory Committee, which prepared the
14 community design component of the city's present master
15 plan. This community design component, to ensure
16 quality planned development, was the first for any city
17 in the San Gabriel Valley.

18 I now turn more specifically to APAFR's
19 recommendations for the 49th Assembly District. We
20 basically have two concerns. First, that the four
21 cities of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and
22 San Gabriel be allowed to continue to remain in the 49th
23 Assembly District and, second, that the 49th Assembly
24 District should be drawn to ensure the common concerns
25 and interests of San Gabriel Valley residents.

1 Our recommendations satisfy the traditional
2 requirements of compactness and continuity while
3 maintaining the existing political subdivisions. I
4 would like to spend the balance of my presentation
5 discussing with you why our recommendations are based on
6 building on existing, quote, communities of interest.

7 I would like to elaborate on the three existing
8 communities of interest. Obviously there are others,
9 but today I would just like to focus on three. First,
10 all of the included cities are members of the
11 San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments; second, each
12 of the included cities has an independent local school
13 system, with outstanding academic performances by their
14 students; and, third, all of the included cities have
15 Asian Pacific American residents who have shared a
16 common political history and development.

17 As to the first point, the San Gabriel Valley
18 Council of Governments, I will use the acronym of
19 SGVCG. Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and
20 San Gabriel are all members of the SGVCG, which is a
21 nonprofit organization to coordinate regional plans to
22 deal with issues of transportation, air quality, land
23 use and solid waste management.

24 In particular, the controversial regional
25 transportation issues demonstrate the community of

1 interests shared by the included cities. The West
2 San Gabriel Valley shares a common interest in
3 transportation systems and transportation planning that
4 is unique. The is SGVCG and the four cities of
5 Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and San Gabriel are
6 united in support for the completion of the 710
7 freeway. This support arises from a need in these
8 cities and many surrounding west San Gabriel Valley
9 cities to reduce traffic congestion.

10 I note parenthetically, that the level of
11 service during commuter hours is a level F, which is the
12 worst, grid lock, along the major arterial surface
13 streets through the West San Gabriel Valley. By
14 reducing traffic congestion, the proponents contend that
15 it would improve air quality in the region.

16 In addition to easing the transportation
17 hardships, the West San Gabriel Valley residents feel
18 the 710 freeway completion poses a solution to regional
19 transportation problems that will also behoove
20 businesses who rely on a regional freeway network for
21 the easy transport of goods.

22 The 710 freeway is a major north/south
23 interstate route used for inter-regional and
24 intra-regional commuting and shipping through an
25 urbanized corridor, connecting the ports of Long Beach

1 and Los Angeles to the western San Gabriel Valley. By
2 1965 the 710 freeway extended north from the Port of
3 Long Beach to Valley Boulevard in the City of Alhambra.
4 About that time, the California Highway Commission
5 adopted the meridian route that would continue building
6 the 710 freeway northward, linking the 10 freeway and
7 the 210 freeway. Since that time, however, factions in
8 the region have been warring over the execution of the
9 meridian route and the construction is stalled.

10 Additionally, the San Gabriel Valley exists in
11 a shared transportation community, as demonstrated by
12 the creation, existence and route patterns of the
13 Foothills Transit District. The Foothills Transit
14 District, developed in the 1980s in response to the
15 Southern California Rapid Transit District's
16 announcement of service cuts that resulted in less
17 service to the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley.
18 FTD focuses its efforts on serving 327 square miles of
19 San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, linking the valleys to
20 each other and facilitating transportation within and
21 throughout the Valleys, and additionally linking the
22 Valleys to downtown Los Angeles.

23 I next turn to the next community of interest.
24 It was the community of elementary, middle and high
25 school studies. My wife, Carol, is an elementary school

1 teacher who stresses the importance that our school
2 children are served by an assemblyperson who is
3 responsive to the needs of the many school districts
4 that serve the West San Gabriel Valley. There are many
5 local independent school districts that serve the West
6 San Gabriel Valley, such as the Alhambra School
7 District, the Garvey Elementary School District, Keppel
8 Elementary, Rosemead Elementary School District,
9 San Gabriel Unified School District and Temple City
10 Unified School District.

11 Currently some of these districts, which spread
12 across city lines, are split along more than one
13 assembly district, making it difficult for our
14 communities to speak with a united voice about our
15 concerns with respect to area schools and the education
16 needs of our school-age children.

17 Additionally, given assembly and senate term
18 limits, the training ground for political leaders is
19 increasingly coming from the ranks of city councils and
20 school boards. Candidates who are able to succeed at
21 the school board level may have an interest in pursuing
22 higher elective offices. It is important to our
23 community that we build stepping stones for the next
24 generation of leaders who will represent San Gabriel
25 Valley to come out of these local offices.

1 I now turn to the third point in terms of the
2 community of interest. In order to appreciate the
3 significance of this community interest, it is helpful
4 to turn -- to step back and to see the larger historical
5 context. Although the United States Supreme Court
6 invalidated racially restrictive covenants on real
7 property as unconstitutional in 1948, the California
8 Alien Land Law, which denied land ownership to
9 immigrants was not deemed unconstitutional until 1952,
10 in the famous case of *Fuji versus California*. The
11 federal government's notorious Walter-McCarran Act
12 precluding Japanese immigrants from ever applying for
13 U.S. citizenship, was not repealed until 1954.

14 As discussed in my personal history, Japanese
15 American families returning to Los Angeles after World
16 War II were limited to living in segregated housing near
17 Little Tokyo. After stabilizing economically, our
18 families started moving into relatively better housing
19 in the Boyle Heights area of East Los Angeles, and the
20 Crenshaw and uptown areas of West Los Angeles.

21 In the early 1960s there was a community
22 controversy over the continued use of a racially
23 restrictive covenant to preclude a black family from
24 moving into Monterey Park. As a result, the Monterey
25 Park City Council was the first to pass a resolution

1 denouncing the enforcement of illegal race covenants.
2 This encouraged Asian and Pacific Americans to move into
3 Monterey Park. This is why there are Japanese American,
4 Chinese American, Korean American and Filipino American
5 families who have lived in Monterey Park for over 30
6 years. Indeed, in the early 1970s this progressive
7 climate fostered the election of Al Song to the state
8 senate from that area at a time when there were only a
9 small percentage of Asian Pacific American voters.

10 In the 1980s there was a new wave of Chinese
11 Americans and immigrants moving into Monterey Park,
12 undoubtedly encouraged by the experiences of the
13 existing Asian Pacific American residents. To this
14 rapid influx of immigrants and related haphazard
15 commercial development, a racist backlash erupted
16 demanding business signs only in English and attempting
17 to limit immigrant businesses. This racist backlash was
18 beat back by a strong multi-cultural and multi-ethnic
19 cross-section of Monterey Park residents, demanding
20 quality plan development and the end to the racist
21 scapegoating of immigrants.

22 It is noteworthy that since the 1960s, those
23 elected to the Monterey Park City Council have included
24 a Japanese American, a Filipino American and three
25 Chinese Americans, whereas in all of the neighboring

1 West San Gabriel cities none have yet been elected to
2 the various city councils during the same time period.
3 Indeed, only in the late 1990s have Chinese Americans
4 been elected in the city councils of South Pasadena and
5 West Covina.

6 Since the late 1980s and the 1990s Monterey
7 Park has provided a comfort zone and gateway for Asian
8 Americans and Pacific Americans to move into Alhambra,
9 Rosemead and San Gabriel. As a result, several Chinese
10 Americans have been elected to the school boards in
11 Alhambra and Rosemead. And, of course, on May 15, 2001
12 we joyously celebrated the election of the Honorable
13 Judy Chu to represent the 49th Assembly District.

14 It is this shared common political history and
15 development that provides the most compelling community
16 interest, because fair redistricting will allow our
17 communities to participate as equal members with fair
18 access to the electoral process. Recently, the United
19 States Supreme Court provided timely guidance by ruling
20 that a particular community's political and voting
21 behavior may be considered in defining districts. And I
22 cite Hunt versus Cormartie.

23 In the final analysis, the shared common
24 political history and development is the most compelling
25 community interest, for it is steeped in the American

1 dream to share the life, liberty and pursuit of
2 happiness offered by our great nation.

3 I thank you for your time and consideration.

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Ono. We appreciate it.

6 And we go on to Mr. Ichinose.

7 MR. ICHINOSE: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Daniel Ichinose, last name is spelled I-c-h-i-n-o-s-e,
9 and I'm research coordinator in the Voting Rights and
10 Anti-Discrimination Unit at the Asian Pacific American
11 Legal Center of Southern California.

12 I hold a Master of Arts degree in Sociology
13 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a
14 concentration in race relations, research methodology
15 and quantitative analysis.

16 Research analyst Nancy Yu and I have been
17 supporting regional groups throughout California in
18 their efforts to participate in the redistricting
19 process by providing analysis and mapping pertinent
20 demographic data.

21 I'd like to conclude by doing two things.
22 First, I'd like to provide a brief demographic overview
23 of Los Angeles County's Asian and Pacific Islander
24 American communities. Second, I'd like to introduce
25 data in support of the testimony of CAPAFR's San Gabriel

1 Valley Regional Group. I've provided written copies of
2 my written testimony to you all, and there be will
3 tables and maps on the overhead projector to -- to your
4 right.

5 With a population of over 9.5 million people in
6 2000, Los Angeles County remains by far the largest
7 county in the United States. Indeed, over 28 percent of
8 California's total population resides here.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Still slower.

10 MR. ICHINOSE: Okay.

11 Given its immense size, it should not be
12 surprising that Los Angeles County is home to more Asian
13 and Pacific and Islander Americans than any other county
14 in the United States.

15 Data from the 2000 census provides us with the
16 most accurate measure we have of the county's racial
17 diversity. According to these data, there are over
18 1.2 million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in
19 Los Angeles County. And you can refer to Table 1 of you
20 packet for that information.

21 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans make up
22 nearly 13 percent of the county's total population and
23 constitute its fastest growing group since 1990.

24 Mapping of Census 2000 data for Los Angeles
25 County shows several concentrations of Asian and Pacific

1 Islander Americans. And this is in Appendix A of your
2 materials. In referring to that appendix, please note
3 that the darker areas represent higher concentrations of
4 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

5 In West San Gabriel Valley, Alhambra, Arcadia,
6 Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Bernardino,
7 South Pasadena and Temple City have high concentrations
8 of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. To the east,
9 many reside in the areas of Diamond Bar, Hacienda
10 Heights, Roland Heights and Walnut. In Metro L.A. our
11 communities are located in Chinatown, Koreatown,
12 Filipinotown and Little Tokyo. To the south, Artesia,
13 Cerritos, Gardena, Torrance -- and Torrance are home to
14 many Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. And, again,
15 in Table 2 these areas are ranked according to the
16 percentage of their total population that was Asian and
17 Pacific Islander American in 2000.

18 The second part of my testimony will address
19 two other communities of interest in the San Gabriel
20 Valley. Mr. Huong stated that the concerns of seniors,
21 defined here as those 65 years of age or older, create a
22 community of interest in the San Gabriel Valley.
23 Indeed, seniors have important concerns that need to be
24 respected in the redistricting process. Mapping
25 projections of the population 65 years of age or older

1 shows that the western San Gabriel Valley has
2 disproportionately more seniors than surrounding areas.
3 And, again, please note that the darker areas represent
4 higher concentrations of seniors. And this is in
5 Appendix B.

6 Data from the 2000 census support this
7 contention. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, most
8 cities in the San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra,
9 Monterey Park, Rosemead and San Gabriel, have
10 disproportionately more persons 65 years of age or
11 older.

12 An aging baby boom generation means that the
13 number of persons 65 years of age or older will increase
14 dramatically in the next 10 to 20 years. Respecting the
15 senior population in the San Gabriel Valley as a
16 community of interest means that older adults will be
17 more likely to receive the services they desperately
18 need, including cash assistance, low cost housing and
19 affordable health care.

20 Mr. Ono noted that education is an issue that
21 binds communities in the San Gabriel Valley. While
22 education is an issue that is critical to all
23 communities, academic achievement varies geographically
24 throughout Los Angeles County.

25 The Academic Performance Index, or API, is a

1 measure of academic performance used by the California
2 Department of Education to gauge school compliance with
3 the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999. Scores
4 range from 200 to 1,000, with higher scores indicative
5 of higher academic achievement.

6 Appendix C, which you see on the overhead
7 projector, maps schools in the San Gabriel Valley
8 according to their score on the API. And, again, please
9 note that the red dots represent schools with lower
10 scores on the API, while the blue dots represent schools
11 with higher scores.

12 An analysis of the geographic distribution of
13 academic performance in the San Gabriel Valley shows
14 that schools in this area have higher levels of academic
15 achievement relative to the county average.

16 Table 4 demonstrates that schools in the cities
17 of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and San Gabriel
18 have higher -- have similarly high levels of academic
19 performance.

20 To summarize, the cities that comprise the core
21 of the San Gabriel Valley, including those I mentioned,
22 Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead and San Gabriel, are
23 bound by several communities of interest whose integrity
24 should be respected in the redistricting process.
25 Evidence supports the assertion that they have similar

1 Asian and Pacific Islander American populations, senior
2 populations and higher academic performance in their
3 schools. Based on these and other similarities that
4 were articulated by other speakers who came before you
5 today, we believe that the interests of these core
6 cities are better served if they are united in the same
7 legislative district.

8 Members of the L.A. County -- L.A. County's
9 Asian and Pacific Islander American communities have
10 testified today as to the location of their communities,
11 their character and the interests that bind them. We
12 appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today and
13 ask that you strongly consider the evidence that we have
14 submitted to you.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir.
17 We appreciate you taking the time to be with us, and we
18 appreciate all of the members of the panel who have come
19 to speak to us today.

20 We are going to take a break. But before we do
21 that, I want to introduce another member of our panel
22 who has arrived. The assembly member from the western
23 part of L.A. County, one of the members from the western
24 part, Assembly Member Fran Pavley.

25 Ms. Pavley, if you wanted to make any

1 observations, we'd certainly welcome them.

2 MS. PAVLEY: I don't need to make any
3 observations, I'm here to listen. And I thank you all
4 for coming.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.
6 We will, then, take a ten-minute break. Be
7 prepared for it to last 15 minutes. We'll see you
8 shortly.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Recess taken.)

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: We'll call this hearing
12 back to order, ladies and gentlemen. And as I noted, we
13 are going to begin -- actually -- I'm sorry -- there
14 were two people who had been introduced to speak, who
15 had been out of the room when they were introduced and,
16 therefore, had been skipped over. And so I want to not
17 skip over those two individuals. They have been part of
18 the NAACP panel and -- is Mr. Adrian Dove?

19 Okay. Mr. Adrian Dove. And then we will have
20 Mr. Aubry, I believe, and then we will go to Kaye
21 Beckham and then Pamela Cook. So people can be kind of
22 prepared, okay?

23 Mr. Dove.

24 MR. DOVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of
25 the committee. We're glad to be present today. My name

1 is Adrian Dove. My address is 6230 Wilshire Boulevard,
2 Suite 500-A, Los Angeles 90048.

3 I'm representing today the African American
4 Advisory Committee on Census Redistricting and the
5 NAACP. We're focused primarily on Los Angeles County,
6 but we are concerned statewide.

7 The -- my own background is, I was a regional
8 director of the Census Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau for
9 the California Region Outreach in the 1990 census and
10 delivered the maps for the county redistricting and the
11 state and congressional. As a matter of fact, I was --
12 I'm not a lawyer, but I was admitted to the bar for 30
13 minutes to deliver oral arguments to the state supreme
14 court on redistricting in 1991. They said I should put
15 that in every resume, a nonlawyer that practiced before
16 the supreme court.

17 The plans that we intend to propose have some
18 basic themes and there are some basic questions that we
19 have. Let me start with the basic questions before I go
20 to the basic themes.

21 And we would like to urge that there be some
22 physical facility, in addition to UC Berkeley, where the
23 public, interested public that's interested enough to go
24 and draw some lines, can go in and use that three and a
25 half thousand dollar software, Maptitude, and the

1 equipment that's necessary for it, to actually put
2 into -- put some lines down on it and do some what-ifs
3 and try moving of the different tracks around after the
4 theoretical positions have been arrived at from looking
5 at tables and charts and what have you. So we would
6 like to urge that -- the county of Los Angeles, by way
7 of example, did that in Alhambra, and they had a center,
8 and it worked very well. People were able to do some
9 very constructive maps that were -- that in fact are
10 being used by the county Bond Review Committee to do
11 that. So we would like to urge that.

12 And, then, the second thing that we'd like to
13 urge is that -- we read that the senate is requiring
14 that nobody, no group or organization can submit a plan
15 unless it's a comprehensive, complete plan for the
16 entire state. And Mr. Leonard, of course, has been over
17 there on that side and is back here now. I assume that
18 the assembly is going to be more open than that and will
19 give serious consideration to partial plans.

20 We're asking for that, and yet we might end up
21 doing an entire state plan. Because it is difficult to
22 just look at your little area of concern and grab, in
23 our case, Districts 47, 48, 51 and 52. And looking at
24 those four, in absence of everything else, it's sort of
25 hard to do. So we may end up -- and any one thing you

1 touch affects everything else. And so we may end up
2 having to go with the statewide. But we'd like to plea
3 for it, should we not.

4 We're concerned about, for the African American
5 community, there being an absence of -- north of Sunset
6 Boulevard there isn't any persons from the community of
7 African Americans elected, and that would -- there were,
8 I guess, two, three, with the speaker, and two in
9 Oakland and Berkeley, and in the senate side all gone.
10 I think there's one congressional member. Congresswoman
11 Barbara Lee is alone up there in Northern California,
12 and the three seats here in Southern California.

13 Now, from that I want to move on to a
14 definition of terms and call attention to the census.
15 The census from 1790 to 1990 had as question No. 4,
16 "What is your race?" And they made a departure in
17 2000, moved that question to No. 7, and then they put
18 the question "What is your" -- "Are you of Hispanic
19 ancestry" became question No. 6.

20 And then they began to do something with the
21 questions electronically. So that if you were to check,
22 for example, that your race is African American on
23 Question 7, but on Question 6 you had checked that
24 you're of Hispanic ancestry, the census -- the counting
25 machine will extract your name -- your number from the

1 African American count and make it into the Hispanic
2 count. Those numbers are not very significant as a
3 percentage at this point. Over the 10 years coming,
4 they may grow as people are merging into a more
5 homogeneous society.

6 The bigger number, approximately 45 percent of
7 persons counted as Hispanic, also counted themselves as
8 white. And so that what you have here is, for example,
9 L.A. County shows 45 percent Hispanic and 32 percent
10 white. But there were 48 percent of the people in
11 Los Angeles County checked that they were white. So
12 that differential between 48 and 32 also said, on a
13 different question, that they were Hispanic and the
14 machine has gone -- so Professor Allen at Cal State
15 Northridge said that he's going to handle that by saying
16 it isn't race any more, that it's race or ethnicity and
17 some other things. But there's some serious questions,
18 but those aren't the biggest questions.

19 There is a mixture of race, and language group,
20 and national ancestry, and it's getting to be kind of
21 confusing. And if that's not enough, the census in the
22 year 2000, which I was no longer working there then,
23 took and created 144 different categories that you can
24 check, if you'd like. You can be black and Asian, black
25 and this -- 144 categories. This is really getting down

1 to the minute.

2 And so we have come up, for purposes of this
3 redistricting, with a term that we'd like to introduce
4 today. We already introduced it in the county. It's on
5 the web site over there. But we are calling describing
6 ourselves -- and we voted on this in committee. We're
7 waiting for the reaccuracy of our national organization,
8 NAACP, to review and concur, hopefully, on this. But
9 locally -- and things start in California for the
10 good -- mostly for the good, all over the country.

11 We've come up with a term called "cohorts of
12 the African American experience." We're describing our
13 community of interest as a cohort. And the definition
14 of "cohort" is this: Any person who is one-eighth or
15 more descended from ancestors who came to the United
16 States involuntarily, and who worked without
17 compensation at a job they were prohibited from leaving
18 to take another job that actually had pay, or to set up
19 their own business, they were prohibited from leaving
20 and were required to remain on the premises, prohibited
21 from being married, and were obliged to have their
22 children enter into the same employment as they were.
23 Any such person who was thus defined in the U.S.
24 Constitution, Article 1, Section 2 as three-fifths of a
25 person, these persons, by the Constitution of the United

1 States, regardless of their race, creed, color, national
2 ancestry, sex, sexual preference or any of that, these
3 persons shall be deemed members of the cohort of the
4 African American experience.

5 So what we're saying is that the African
6 American experience, the education, the discrimination,
7 the -- Mr. Ono mentioned earlier today the restrictive
8 covenants that prevented African Americans from living
9 at any beach except for Venice Beach, that these things
10 all culminate into a group that is a cohort.

11 And as you look at people that are called
12 African American today, they're all different
13 complexions, all different kind of hair, different
14 sizes. And the concept of race really is a false
15 construct, and its purpose was to justify and identify a
16 group that could be held in slavery.

17 Now, note that our definition does not mention
18 "Africa," it does not mention "black" and it does not
19 mention "slavery," it describes specific conditions and
20 experiences. And so we would hope to put that before
21 your committee as a consideration. And some might think
22 it's a fine point, a hair splitting, but we think it is
23 a very significant because, particularly in Los Angeles
24 County if not soon the state of California, there is no
25 such thing as a majority.

1 You know, when we talk about the minority
2 versus the majority, depending on how you choose to
3 count it, white people are the ones that we call white
4 if we -- by the concept of race any more -- are 32
5 percent, or 48 percent. And we don't even know. Which
6 is it, 32 or is it 48? But in any case, it ain't 50.
7 And so it is not a majority. And Hispanics, at 45
8 percent, if you count whites who are Hispanic as not
9 white, and I'm not quite sure how you do that, then
10 Hispanics at 44, 45 percent -- 44 point something, would
11 be a plurality. And so we're looking at Gaza, and the
12 civil rights laws, and seeing that there is a number of
13 things.

14 And so in our drawing of districts for the
15 board of supervisors, which for us encompasses the same
16 areas of the three seats of congress, the two seats of
17 senate and the four seats of the assembly, we drew those
18 proposed lines to form the potential for building
19 coalitions, so that no one group would so severely
20 overwhelm all the others. And so we end up in that
21 district with 30 percent, 29 percent cohorts of the
22 African American experience and we end up with 44 and a
23 half percent Hispanic, we end up with 15 percent white,
24 13 percent Asian. And you've got the basis there for --
25 and at the present, with those particular figures,

1 Congresswoman -- I'm sorry, Supervisor Yvonne Burke was
2 elected from that kind of a complex. And so -- L.A. is
3 a place where these things are starting to change.

4 There's a history in L.A., with -- a city that
5 had less than 15 percent cohorts of African American
6 population but for 20 years elected Tom Bradley as the
7 mayor. Clearly that was not identity politics, and
8 we're getting beyond that. We hope that in the coming
9 years it will move beyond that, and we build these lines
10 in that kind of a way.

11 We had in the heart of South Central during the
12 time when that area, that second supervisorial district
13 was more than 50 percent African American, yet had for
14 40 years Kenneth Hahn elected and reelected, and
15 challenged by African Americans, who he handily
16 defeated. And it means that if quality leadership is
17 provided, the issue of race disappears.

18 And as we are -- you on this panel addressing
19 it, we -- we have to, because of the Civil Rights Act,
20 the Voting Rights Act, address race and the communities
21 of interest. But I think the courts have been kind of
22 doing everything they can, Prop 209, to render race as
23 an invalid basis for making these determinations. And
24 that -- if that is the case, then rather than race we
25 offer that substitute definition of the cohorts of the

1 experience.

2 The third thing was that -- well, I think
3 that's -- I don't want to run over the time. That's the
4 essence of what we're doing.

5 Then the lines and the maps, we want to hold --
6 as much as possible, avoid the collapsing of those
7 districts because we think they are districts that will
8 move away from identity politics, but preserving them as
9 there are -- the congressional is a different situation
10 from the assembly and the senate, because -- and the
11 assembly and the senate is a revolving door. Every six
12 years or eight years they've got a new group in, and the
13 only constant is those key staff. And -- and the
14 lobbyists. The members just rotate in and out a little
15 bit too fast. We'd like to see something done about
16 that. But in congress you can still build seniority and
17 acquire power for areas that reward -- reward strong
18 visionary leadership.

19 And so at this time I'd like to echo some of
20 the remarks that were made, particularly by Mr. Ono in
21 the last panel. I was thinking as he was talking, a lot
22 of what I wanted to say was there.

23 I, incidentally -- he referred to the first
24 black family to move into Monterey Park. That was my
25 family that moved in. So I was particularly enjoyed of

1 his -- and I lived in that Monterey Park area and feel
2 very strongly about aggregating Monterey Park and
3 Alhambra and San Gabriel and Rosemead into a community
4 of interest, and Lynwood, together with South Gate and
5 Huntington Park. Those communities of interest.

6 So -- again, it's my pleasure and I thank you
7 very much.

8 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
9 Mr. Dove. I'm pleased to know you came from the -- you
10 had as your representative for a long time one of my
11 great heroes, Congressman George Brown.

12 MR. DOVE: Yeah.

13 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: I want to note that we
14 would welcome -- if you later think of something that
15 you neglected to add, that you can submit in writing if
16 there's anything that you missed.

17 MR. DOVE: Can I just tell you one thing about
18 that, sir?

19 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Go ahead.

20 MR. DOVE: The day that I moved in, some
21 members of the Nazi party picketed my house in Monterey
22 Park. And I didn't know, you know, who the -- the then
23 mayor was. And a car pulled up and George Brown came
24 and -- got out and came to my house and said, "I'm the
25 mayor. I'm going to stay at your house."

1 So I was very delighted with -- that's how I
2 met George Brown, and Al Song, and the particularly
3 strong leadership that represented that area.

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: I've never heard that
5 story, but it doesn't surprise me in the slightest.
6 It's exactly typical of Congressman George Brown. And
7 his loss in '99 was a great loss for all of us.

8 I believe Mr. Aubry is next.

9 I'm sorry. Did you have a question,
10 Mr. Leonard?

11 MR. LEONARD: Mr. Chairman, I do have a
12 question.

13 Mr. Dove talked about a cohort of the African
14 American community. Could we ask staff to get together
15 with Mr. Dove and make sure that that definition draws
16 out of the census data the same way that we pull out the
17 census data, so that we're agreeing on the numbers on
18 that -- I think it sounds very similar, if not
19 identical.

20 MR. DOVE: It's called inclusive dash B.

21 MR. LEONARD: Inclusive dash B. Okay. If we
22 could verify that, it would be helpful to me.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

25 And, Mr. Aubry, if you can go ahead and give

1 your full name and spell it for the court reporter.

2 MR. AUBRY: Larry Aubry, A-u-b-r-y.

3 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And, Mr. Aubry, let me

4 also note, because I know you may not have been here

5 earlier when we were mentioning this, that we are having

6 court reporters transcribe this entire meeting. So

7 we're trying to not talk as rapidly as we otherwise

8 sometimes find ourselves doing, so that they can get it

9 all down.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. AUBRY: It is a tremendous challenge for

12 me. A tremendous challenge.

13 I'll be very brief, actually, because I think

14 Mr. Dove has sort of laid out the -- the parameters of

15 our effort.

16 I'm with the -- also a member of the African

17 American Committee on Redistricting and -- Community

18 Advisory Committee on Redistricting, that's the full

19 name. And, of course, our particular concern is our

20 African American citizens, the African American

21 population.

22 Until the national office of the NAACP signs

23 off on the "cohorts," I will stick to the term "African

24 American." It might be simpler at this time. But I --

25 I say that in jest, but the fact is that may move us to

1 another and more clearer level of discourse and may
2 even -- maybe even participation in the process -- the
3 fairness process.

4 I -- I can't strongly enough reemphasize what
5 my experiences have shown, which is the -- which is the
6 unique needs of the African American community. Despite
7 the fact that every community has unique needs. That's
8 not the issue. Fact of the matter is, if you notice,
9 that not withstanding leadership, and I mean effective
10 leadership in some areas throughout L.A. County over the
11 past 30, 40 years, the fact of the matter is in many
12 areas the communities are still going down.

13 Education, housing, various kinds of things
14 involving law enforcement. These kinds of areas still
15 require particular attention. And that -- and then the
16 whole thing of inter-group relations, the whole
17 multi-cultural effort, which needs to be obviously
18 forged and into everything we do. These things require,
19 also, a lot of attention.

20 Professionally, I'm retired from the L.A.
21 County Human Relations Commission. I was with the
22 county for 34 years, involved in education and
23 multi-cultural training, conflict resolution and that
24 kind of thing. So my background is in this area that
25 we're talking about right now.

1 And I would like to say that the media reports
2 of the -- of African American political strength -- of
3 the demise of African American political strength, are
4 not only exaggerated and highly misleading, but they are
5 in fact untrue. Yes, there is a diminishment of
6 population in various areas and certain blocks all
7 that. But the fact of the matter is, the African
8 American population is quite alive and quite well,
9 although it needs a lot of shoring up and it needs a lot
10 of attention, like a lot of other communities.

11 A fair redistricting process is critical to the
12 future social, political and economic viability of
13 African Americans throughout the state of California.
14 Of particular significance is the growing population in
15 the San Bernardino, Rialto, Moreno Valley areas. There
16 you find the configurations to be quite different,
17 substantially. Substantively, if you will, different
18 than, let's say, in L.A. County.

19 The African American Community Advisory
20 Committee is developing, as Mr. Dove has indicated, and
21 will present to this committee a redistricting proposal
22 that reflects the best interests of California's African
23 American population. That is our intent.

24 We look forward to working with you and to
25 serious consideration of our redistricting plan. Thank

1 you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir,
3 for taking the time to be here today.

4 And at this time, our next witness will be
5 representing the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce,
6 Ms. Kaye Beckham. And is Ms. Beckham still in the
7 room?

8 She -- she may have had to leave. But if
9 the -- if we can check out in the lobby, just to be
10 sure. And if she is here, we'll have her come next.

11 At this time I'll go to the next person, which
12 is administrative vice president of the Stonewall
13 Democratic Club, Pamela Cooke.

14 And then we'll -- if Ms. Beckham is here, we'll
15 take her after that.

16 MS. COOKE: Good afternoon, Honorable Chair and
17 members of the committee, and also Ms. Pavley, for
18 sitting in and -- on the committee today.

19 I apologize. I do have a cold. So I'm hoping
20 that the court reporter will be able to understand me
21 today. By profession I am a litigation attorney, so I
22 usually am able to speak fairly clearly, and jurors
23 usually never complain about being able to hear my
24 voice.

25 I do represent Stonewall Democratic Club. And

1 as many of you know, and I'm sure that actually many of
2 the audience members know, we represent the gay and
3 lesbian community of the greater Los Angeles area, not
4 only including Los Angeles city, but Los Angeles
5 County. And we are well-known throughout not only the
6 state of California, but also throughout the entire
7 nation. And our presence and our voice is definitely
8 heard on a regular basis. And we thank you very much
9 for allowing our voices to be heard today on the issue
10 of redistricting.

11 I thank you very much, also, because, in the
12 redistricting process, it is a matter of allowing many
13 different groups to be heard. And while I've heard
14 comments from groups which primarily today make up
15 racial and ethnic groups, maybe some business interests,
16 there are many other groups that actually should be
17 invited to this table, possibly in terms of
18 redistricting issues, besides even the gay and lesbian
19 community.

20 As an attorney, what I'd like to point out is
21 the state supreme court case on redistricting. And that
22 is the Reinecke, R-e-i-n-e-c-k-e case. And, basically,
23 the Reinecke case points out that it's important, in
24 terms of redistricting, to look at communities of
25 interest of various kinds. We are, of course, in the

1 gay and lesbian community, one of those other various
2 kinds.

3 And we do appreciate, again, the voice at the
4 table. And this is not just one of those, as the -- and
5 it is pointed out in the materials that were left on the
6 tables -- a traditional voice. We've been a traditional
7 voice, but haven't necessarily always been allowed the
8 opportunity to be heard. So it's, again, another reason
9 why we are grateful to be heard today.

10 And I'm hoping, also, that if other members of
11 the gay and lesbian community have not been heard
12 throughout the state, that you do consider the comments
13 in taking into consideration gay and lesbian areas in
14 this state when it comes to redistricting. Because, as
15 you know, we have absolutely fabulous assembly members
16 who now represent us; our fabulous senator, Sheila
17 Kuehl. But as, also, you know, we have just fabulous
18 representation of our interests in the state of
19 California. And we are so, so proud of the diversity
20 that we have. Because, also, the gay and lesbian
21 community represents everyone here today. We are
22 Latino, we are Asian Pacific Islander, we are all the
23 segments of this population.

24 To specifics. What we would like, and ask you,
25 is that you not break apart our communities also. In

1 particular, most people know that, of course, there is
2 the community -- the City of West Hollywood. West
3 Hollywood is contained within the 42nd Assembly District
4 and the 23rd Senate District. I feel it would be such a
5 detrimental thing to the community, to break apart any
6 portion of West Hollywood and the surrounding
7 communities. Because communities do group together.

8 Within the 29th Congressional District, there
9 is a very high concentration of gays and lesbians. And
10 it is a -- if you look at the -- especially the
11 representation in the 29th CD, which not many people
12 have talked about in terms of congressional districts,
13 we would like our voices to be heard, we have had
14 spectacular representation, and that we would ask that
15 the boundary lines be considered in terms of factoring
16 in -- into the considerations of a community that we
17 would like to certainly preserve.

18 Specifically within the 42nd Assembly District,
19 it would in all likelihood be detrimental if the 42nd
20 Assembly District, in terms of the northern boundary, is
21 cut off any further to the south than, for example,
22 Mulholland Boulevard. So we would request that it at
23 least go to Mulholland Boulevard, if not actually
24 preserving the current northern boundary of the 42nd
25 Assembly District.

1 We also have the community of Silver Lake and
2 Echo Park. The 45th Assembly District is absolutely a
3 key district to the gay and lesbian community. As you
4 know, we have the fabulous, again, Assembly Member
5 Jackie Goldberg in the 45th Assembly District. This is
6 a voice clearly being heard in the community.

7 There are other areas where there are pockets
8 of populations, including within the 41st Assembly
9 District there are communities within Venice and spread
10 out throughout Santa Monica. Then we turn to the North
11 Hollywood and Studio City area. That's actually split
12 up in terms of the 39th and 40th Assembly Districts.
13 And then, of course, we have the very powerful voice
14 down in the Long Beach area, the 54th Assembly
15 District.

16 And I'd like to point out, in terms of Long
17 Beach, that, again, a congressional seat is very
18 important to the gay and lesbian community, and that is
19 what has been the 38th Congressional District. And we'd
20 like your attention given to Long Beach in terms of a
21 congressional district when the boundaries are reset.
22 And so that our community is not separated within Long
23 Beach.

24 With the senate districts, the way that the
25 plan was put together the last time in terms of the way

1 the boundaries were drawn, of course, we have two
2 assembly districts contiguous within a senate district.
3 The 23rd Senate District is just so important to the gay
4 and lesbian community in making sure that their voice is
5 heard. And in terms of the 41st and 42nd not being
6 within a newly defined senate district, it causes me
7 concern that voices are not collectively heard.

8 So we ask that you take communities into
9 consideration with -- when redrawing a senate district.
10 Because these populations may be split up, and we just
11 want to make sure that there is, again, that voice in
12 the process.

13 The key factor is not diluting the voice. And
14 that is certainly a standard when it comes to
15 redistricting. We hope that you take that into
16 consideration.

17 Again, if there are no other speakers on behalf
18 of the gay and lesbian community throughout the state, I
19 ask that you take certain areas of, of course, down in
20 San Diego into consideration, of course around
21 San Francisco, pockets within San Jose, and you do take
22 those areas into consideration, again, when
23 redistricting.

24 And we do thank you so very much in considering
25 our community one of those communities of interest of

1 various kinds when it comes to our great state of
2 California and the diverse populations which are
3 included within the state of California.

4 And, again, we thank this honorable committee
5 for allowing us to speak today as one voice.

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much for
7 taking the time to come here today. We appreciate it.

8 Did -- I have -- here we go. Did Ms. Beckham
9 show up?

10 THE FLOOR: No.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Apparently not.

12 We move on to -- first -- and, again, I want to
13 apologize in advance for my inability to sometimes make
14 out handwriting. And also if I pronounce a name.

15 Do I have a -- what appears to be Faramarz
16 Nabari. F-a-r-a-m-a-r-z is the first name, N-a-b-a-r-i
17 or it could be a-v-i. I'm not sure.

18 Okay. The person apparently had to leave. I
19 would just note that we will -- we do have the address
20 and phone number. We can contact that person, ask if
21 they would like to add something onto the record.

22 Then I have Dr. Dale Tatum.

23 So that the next people can be aware, let me
24 have -- I have Mr. Arturo Garcia will be after
25 Dr. Tatum.

1 Good to see you, sir.

2 DR. TATUM: Good afternoon, Chairman Longville

3 and the other distinguished members of the

4 reapportionment committee. I am here this afternoon as

5 a representative of the Community Coalition for Change.

6 I am a lifetime resident of the South Central

7 area. I hold a Ph.D. in political science from the

8 University of Michigan, as well.

9 As you know, California is without a doubt the

10 most diverse state in the entire country, and there is a

11 need to accommodate the state's diverse population.

12 However, one group should not be disenfranchised at the

13 expense of another group. There should be fair and

14 equitable representation for all. Therefore, I am

15 seeking your help to make this a reality.

16 I have a number of requests. I am requesting

17 that communities remain intact based upon common

18 interests and political ties. Splitting communities

19 makes it difficult for people to organize at the grass

20 roots level. South Central, Athens, Compton, Carson and

21 the Harbor Gateway area should remain part of the 37th

22 Congressional District.

23 The diverse population of this region has a

24 history of cooperation and accommodation. Splitting

25 this area will make it much more difficult for the

1 people of the area to organize politically. Also, it
2 will make it much more difficult for us to achieve
3 environmental justice. There are a number of industries
4 in the area that affect the entire region. And so if
5 you split the area, each separate region is going to
6 have to organization politically. We already have a
7 mechanism in place for dealing with these problems. If
8 you split it, you will in fact strike a setback for the
9 cause of environmental justice.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
12 Dr. Tatum. We appreciate you taking the time to be
13 here.

14 And do I have, by the way, for the record,
15 Dr. Tatum, it is Dale, D-a-l-e Tatum, T-a-t-u-m?

16 DR. TATUM: Correct.

17 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: All right. I wanted to
18 make sure I got this correctly for the record.

19 Then I have Mr. Arturo Garcia.

20 Okay. Again, it appears that Mr. Garcia may
21 have had to leave.

22 And I apologize for the fact that,
23 unfortunately, it does take awhile. Let me make one
24 more check for -- I'm -- again, I apologize. I don't
25 know if it is Mr. or Ms., but I have Faramarz Nabari.

1 One more time.

2 Okay. If -- in the absence of those
3 individuals -- let me just double-check. Is there
4 anyone else who desired to speak, who somehow we had
5 missed your form?

6 All right. Then, that being the case, we thank
7 you all very much for being here today. We will be
8 anxiously reviewing all this material over the weeks and
9 months to come, to put together our plan. We hope that
10 we can satisfy as many of your concerns as possible,
11 obviously recognizing that there are things that
12 overlap, and we will do our darnedest.

13 And we very, very much appreciate your taking
14 the time to come here today and participate in the
15 process. You're going to have greater impact than most
16 people will, because of the fact that you took the
17 time.

18 I would remind you, also, that we do have a web
19 site on which you can get additional information, if you
20 wish to. One of the easiest ways to get it -- and
21 on which the testimony that was given today will be
22 posted when we finish transcribing it. That web site is
23 available in the lobby.

24 And thank you, again, very much for coming
25 here. And without objection, this hearing is

1 adjourned.

2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the hearing was
4 concluded at 3:34 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE

We, LESLIE A. MAC NEIL, RPR, CSR No. 7187, and
STEPHANIE L. ELLIS, RPR, CSR No. 10609, in and for the
State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing ____-page proceedings were
taken down by us in shorthand at the time and place
stated herein, and represent a true and correct
transcript of the proceedings.

We further certify that we are not interested
in the event of the action.

WITNESS our hand this _____ day of _____,
2001.

_____	_____
Certified shorthand	Certified shorthand
reporter in and for the	reporter in and for the
State of California	State of California

